

Poor Management Policies and Practices by U.S. Politicians Destroyed a Superpower

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The Chinese ‘Three Warfares’ (3W) strategy incorporates media or public opinion warfare, legal warfare, and psychological warfare. The 3W has evolved into a pursuit of ‘intelligentized warfare’ that aims to directly control the will of the highest decision-makers. This paper is focused on a DIMEFIL analysis of the United States to identify why and when the United States’ highest decision-makers surrendered its superpower status, without the Chinese firing one shot. This analysis of America’s National Instruments of Power serves as a wake-up call for the American people and business owners. The study concludes that the greatest threat to the United States is our American leaders’ arrogance and stupidity, as expressed in poor management, bad policies, and often incompetent practices.

Keywords: intelligence, military, diplomacy, economy, debt, crime, Chinese, white supremacy, propaganda, fake news

INTRODUCTION

This exploratory article is intended to inform the business community about the looming recession, as well as the multi-pronged consequences of a political elite who no longer obey their Oaths of Office. The Chinese ‘Three Warfare Strategy’ (TWS) incorporates media or public opinion warfare, psychological warfare, and legal warfare (Cheng, 2011; Singh, 2013). TWS has evolved into a pursuit of ‘intelligentized warfare’ to directly control the will of the highest decision-makers, including our president (Bergman, 2022) – hence, the United States has already lost this war and is no longer a superpower. This paper is focused on a macroscopic analysis of the United States to identify the key reasons why the United States surrendered its superpower status, without the Chinese firing one shot. The research uses National Instruments of Power (NIOPs) through the lens of the diplomatic, informational, military, economic, finance, intelligence, and law enforcement (DIMEFIL) framework and is not an all-inclusive study since micro-analysis of many contributing issues is outside the scope of this paper. The literature review is focused on the following two research questions:

Research Question 1: What is the current DIMEFIL assessment of the United States?

Research Question 2: What policies or practices led to the U.S. fall from superpower status?

U.S. Joint Doctrine identifies the importance of synchronizing and incorporating a whole-of-government approach to utilize all NIOPs for the unity of effort CJCS (2018); but this, has not occurred for

over 30 years. After the fall of the former Soviet Union, the United States was considered the lone superpower of the world – it is no longer. The power granted to the United States by the international community was squandered by petty politicians and bureaucrats. Like Great Britain in 1919, the United States’ senior leadership is not even aware of her demise. This analysis of America’s NIOP serves as a wake-up call for the American people. The study concludes that an internal threat to the United States is not white supremacy as propagated by Joe Biden, but U.S. political leaders’ arrogance and stupidity, as expressed in poor management, bad policies, and often incompetent practices, combined with citizen apathy.

LITERATURE REVIEW

U.S. Joint Doctrine uses Diplomacy, Information, Military, Economics, Finance, Intelligence, and Law Enforcement (DIMEFIL) as an analytical framework. This research is an analysis of the United States of America from a foreign perspective: the reader can choose, China, Russia, North Korea, or Venezuela, as well as non-state actors such as al-Qaeda or ISIS as potential protagonists; however, the issues in this paper are glaringly evident to any well-read foreign actor. This literature review is composed of four sections beginning with a section on (1) economics & finance, (2) information & intelligence, (3) diplomacy & defense, followed by (4) law enforcement & the rule of law. Lastly, synchronization efforts will be discussed in the Discussion, Analysis, and Conclusion.

Section 1: Economics and Finance

Federal Debt

Former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS), General Mullen identified “the most significant threat to our national security is our debt” (Brannen, 2012; CNN 2012): Mullen was correct! No one can dispute that economics was the primary driver for the dissolution of the United Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR). An unsuccessful coup d’état in August 1991 strengthened democratic forces, prompted the resignation of Mr. Gorbachev in December 1991, and the remnants of the Soviet Parliament voted to end itself (DOS, 2022). Will this happen to the United States? It is possible, largely due to the U.S. federal government’s mismanagement of economics and finance. Economic analysis begins in 1991 since that year marked the United States as the (allegedly) last remaining superpower, and the politicians’ squandering of our wealth ever since. Military doctrine artificially separates economics and finance, while using non-standard definitions of each, which is why both are addressed in this section. But military doctrine identifies that economic power is frequently considered the heart of national power (CJCS, 2018, JCS, II-7), so this research begins with an analysis of the Federal Debt.

Fiscal Mismanagement

Fiscal irresponsibility has existed as long as politicians have existed. However, the problem of fiscal solvency has become a question of national survival during the administrations of the past six presidents (Baker, 2009, p. 35). Federal Debt under George H.W. Bush increased 60% from 2.8 trillion in 1989 to 4.4 trillion in 1993; Federal Debt under William Clinton increased 30% from 4.4 trillion in 1993 to 5.7 trillion in 2001; Federal Debt under George W. Bush increased 100% from 5.7 trillion in 2001 to 11.8 trillion in 2009; Federal Debt under Barak Obama increased 71% from 11.8 trillion in 2009 to 20.2 trillion in 2017; Federal Debt under Donald Trump increased 41% from 20.2 trillion in 2017 to 28 trillion in 2021, and finally debt has increased by over 3 trillion in just 24 months of the Biden presidency. Figure 1 shows the cumulative debt in red with the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in black.

The most disturbing issue is the deficit creep that continues unabated: George H.W. Bush had an average deficit of \$400 billion; Clinton’s average deficit was \$160 billion; G.W. Bush’s average deficit was \$760 billion; Obama’s average deficit was \$1.1 trillion; Trump average deficit was \$2 trillion; and just 2 years into the Biden presidency, the average deficit is estimated to be \$2.2 trillion per year (OMB, 2023). Also of significance, in 2013, the U.S. Federal Debt as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

exceeded 100% during the Obama presidency, and the massive debt resulted in the first-ever downgrade of America’s credit rating (Detrixhe, 2011).

So, are these presidents at fault? Yes, partially – they own shared guilt because no one exercised their veto. The Constitution, Article 1 describes congressional powers and explicitly states that the U.S. Congress oversees the purse strings of the federal government. U.S. Congress has the power to raise and provide public money and oversee its proper expenditure. The U.S. Constitution enumerates or lists the powers delegated to Congress and what Congress is lawfully authorized to spend money upon, such as paying the Debts (Art. I, §8, cl. 1 & Art. VI, cl.1). Congress passed the Budget and Accounting Act of 1921; but we now have crushing federal debt, because Congress has been ignoring the existing constitutional limits on its spending. Since 1964, our presidents and Congress have continued the unconstitutional move toward more control and an ever-increasing welfare state (Baker, 2009, p. 51).

**FIGURE 1
FEDERAL DEBT & GDP AT THE END OF YEAR: 1989–2022**

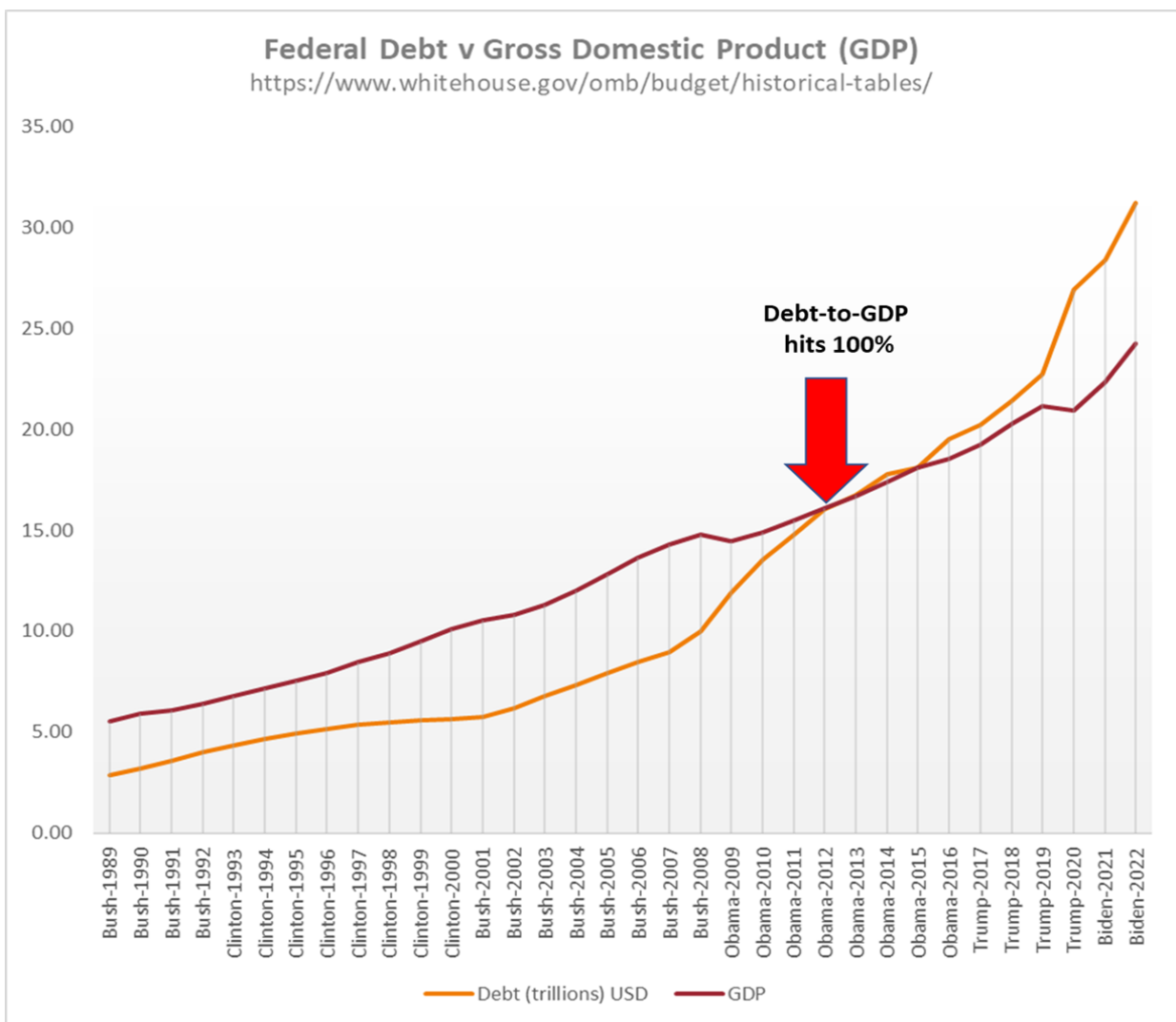
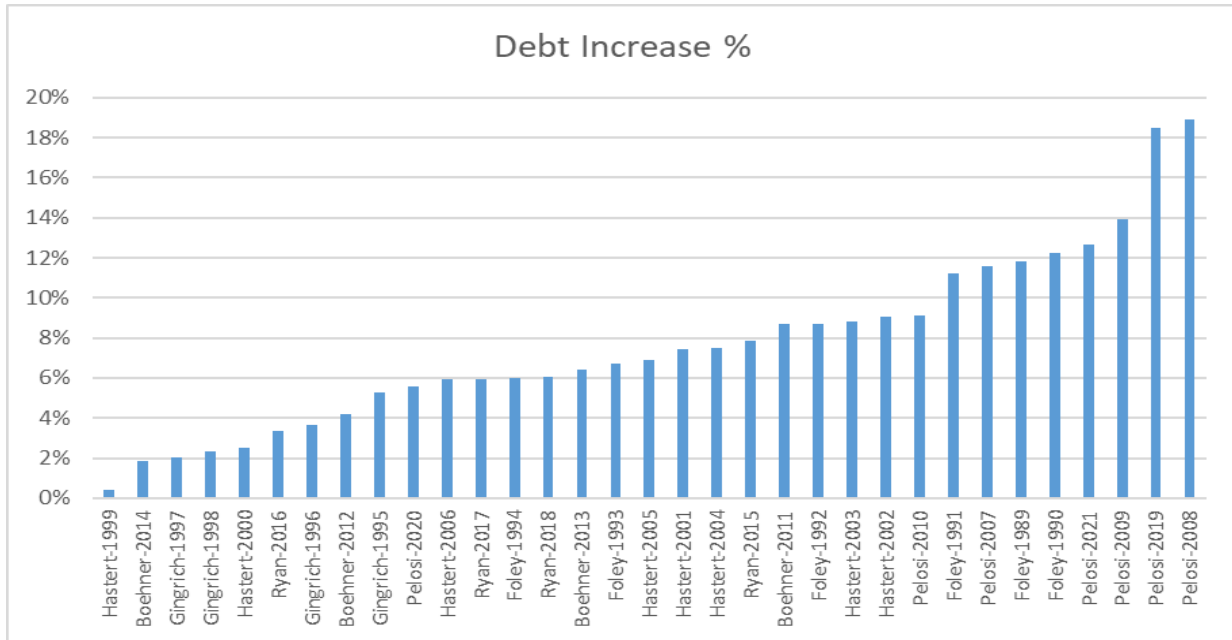


Figure 2 uses the same debt numbers from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) but compares increases to the Speakers of the House of Representatives for the past 32 years. This figure shows that the greatest increases in Federal Debt occurred during periods that Foley and Pelosi were Speakers of the

House; while the most frugal political combinations were Clinton/Gingrich and Clinton/Hastert. Presidents should be equally condemned because none of them used their veto power when given a budget that was not balanced, nor was spending in compliance with Constitution’s enumerated powers. Today, much of Congress’ spending is unconstitutional as it is outside the scope of the delegated powers (Baker, 2009). One answer to our political and fiscal problems is already laid out in the U.S. Constitution: downsize the federal government to its enumerated powers and return these usurped powers to the States or ‘We the People’ as per the 9th and 10th Amendments.

**FIGURE 2
FEDERAL DEBT INCREASES AS COMPARED TO THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE**



Social Security, Medicare & Medicaid

The Social Security trust funds date back to the ‘Old-Age Reserve Account,’ established under the 1935 Social Security Act. Under both the 1935 act and the 1939 amendments, the accumulated reserves were ‘invested’ in interest-bearing Treasury securities. According to the US Census Bureau, there were approximately 117.2 million households in the United States in 2009 (US Census Bureau, Table AVG1). In 2009, the NPV of Social Security’s unfunded liability over the next 75 years was \$5.3 trillion, or approximately \$45,000 per household (Scott, 2010; Goss, 2010). A Congressional Budget Office (CBO) report revealed the problem grew significantly worse under the Obama administration (Weber, 2015). In 2020, the open-group unfunded obligation for OASDI over the 75 years was \$16.8 trillion in present value and was \$2.9 trillion more than the measured level of \$13.9 trillion just a year prior; this is approximately \$144,000 per household. OASDI open-group unfunded obligation over the infinite horizon is \$53.0 trillion in present value, which is \$36.2 trillion larger than the Survivors Insurance (OASI) Trust Fund, which pays retirement and survivors benefits, and will be able to pay scheduled benefits in a timely basis until 2034; then the fund’s reserves will become depleted and continuing tax income will be sufficient to pay 76 percent of scheduled benefits (TSSM, 2022). In contrast, according to the CBO’s latest projections, the Social Security trust fund will run out of money by 2032, which is earlier than the depletion date projected by the Social Security Trustees (CBO, 2023). But, the most tragic betrayal of the American people comes from the 1960 Supreme Court Ruling in *Flemming v. Nestor*, 363 U.S. 603 (1960), which obligates taxpayers to make FICA contributions, but does not obligate the government to give you anything back: the SCOTUS ruling said Social Security was not insurance, and social insurance benefits were neither

property, nor a contractual right (Reich, 1964; Tani, 2008). If a corporate retirement fund had similar management policies and practices as the Social Security Administration, then the C-Suite would be facing prison time – this is a violation of public trust.

In 1966, Medicare became a national health insurance program in the United States, under the Social Security Administration (SSA), which is now administered by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Congress expanded Medicare eligibility to younger people with permanent disabilities and receive Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) payments and to those with end-stage renal disease. As early as 2011, the trustees of Medicare said the program won't have enough funds to pay full benefits by 2024. By January 1, 2016, Medicare's unfunded obligation over the 75-year timeframe equaled \$32.4 trillion; but using an infinite timeframe the unfunded liability would be over \$50 trillion (Foster, 2009). The Hospital Insurance (HI) Trust Fund, which pays Medicare Part A inpatient hospital expenses, will be able to pay scheduled benefits until 2026, the same as reported last year. At that time, the fund's reserves will become depleted and continuing total program income will be sufficient to pay 90 percent of total scheduled benefits (TSSM, 2022).

In 1965, Medicaid became a federal and state program to assist with medical costs for people with limited income and resources. An early assessment in 2008 by the program's trustees found that Medicare's unfunded liability portion is \$74 trillion, five times more than Social Security's unfunded liability (Heyes, 2011). Despite political rhetoric, there were no significant improvements in the solvency of Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid – the fiscal reality is that they are all heading into insolvency (Holtz-Eakin, et. al., 2014). Despite early assessments, the 2021 Medicare Trustees Report projects that under intermediate assumptions, the health insurance trust fund will become insolvent in 2026, the same year as estimated in the prior three years' reports (CRS, 2021b).

The Economic “So What?”

The United States Congress, the Speaker of the House, and to a lesser extent, each president of the United States over the last 33 years has let us down. The economy, not the military, is the center of gravity for the United States or any superpower. Despite the massive \$28.7 trillion increase in debt since 1989, the social security, Medicare, and Medicaid programs all have unfunded liabilities totaling over \$100 trillion. As a country, the United States is one of the largest debtor nations on the planet and has accumulated so much debt in just 3 decades that it cannot be repaid without massive increases in taxes.

Contributing to this massive debt, President Biden and the former Speaker (Pelosi) subscribed to an absurd economic concept known as Modern Monetary Theory (MMT), which was largely debunked by mainstream economist analysts and pundits, such as Nobel Prize-winning economist Paul Krugman, Fed Chair, Jerome Powell, Lawrence Summers, Ken Rogoff, Gerald Epstein, and Doug Henwood (Epstein, 2019; Henwood, 2019; Rogoff, 2019; McCormick, 2019; Epstein, 2020; D'Souza, 2022). MMT is the current incarnation of a 'money tree' that grows cash, and allegedly our politicians can pluck the money tree at will for all their spending desires. Socialistic professors Stephanie Kelton, L. Randall Wray, and Pavlina Tcherneva are the three principal theoreticians of MMT who believe that the government can spend as much as it wishes. They claim that the United States is a currency issuer, with the power to print money to finance budget deficits, hence there is no danger that the country will ever become bankrupt. Hypothetically, debt monetization can achieve virtually every government objective bar none (Newman, 2020; Beck, et. al., 2022). This highly expansionary monetary policy was tried in Venezuela by Hugo Chavez and led to the economic ruin of an entire nation (Baker, 2021). Inflation results from excess money creation; and the pandemic policy of the Federal Reserve under both Trump and Biden, consisted of a highly expansionary monetary policy supported by significant money creation (Hetzl, 2022), which has resulted in the double-digit inflation that Americans are experiencing today (Freund, 2022).

Economically, Republican and Democrat political elites (the political elites, *not necessarily the general membership*) are not of the monetarist tradition that blames destabilizing shocks to the economy upon interference by the Federal Reserve. Instead, even many self-labeled conservatives in Washington, D.C. have subscribed to Keynesian tradition, as Socialistic-Progressives, who want the government to have a great deal of power over the economy, and who doubt whether economic liberty and individual freedom

are practical options in today's world. These elitists tend to distrust the free market, support high taxes, and centralized planning of the economy (Baker 2009, p. 32). Implementing MMT is merely the political elites' newest attempt at justifying more government spending on programs simply by printing money, but MMT arguments do not add up (Palley 2019; Coats, 2019). As stated, the MMT concept was implemented in 2007 by Hugo Chávez's transition of Venezuela from capitalism to 21st Century Socialism. Chávez's massive spending depended on the immense state oil company, PDVSA – *Petróleos de Venezuela Sociedad Anónima* (Gott, 2008; Baker, 2021). However, a drop in oil prices and depleted revenues from PDVSA prompted Chávez's switch to MMT's money-tree concepts – after all, he had the power to print money to finance Venezuelan budget deficits and thereby achieve his dream of a more equitable economy. Venezuelan citizens were promised much, received much, and lost everything after regime overspending resulted in currency devaluation, and subsequent massive inflation destroyed the Venezuelan economy. What was the net result of MMT spending practices? Venezuela dropped from the strongest economy in all Latin America to the bottom. The most repressed economies out of 178 countries in the world now include Cuba (176), Venezuela (177), and North Korea (178) – yet each was envisioned as a Marxist-Socialist paradise (Baker, 2021). All three countries have used the MMT concepts of unlimited spending and centralized government control with grave results; and the Biden administration is doing the same, with the potential of either hyperinflation or a massive recession due to over-correction in our future.

In summary, the U.S. political elites have spent the United States into an economic hole that will be very hard to dig out of without massive pain for American taxpayers. The general fund is \$31.6 trillion in debt, and unfunded liabilities for Social Security are \$16.8 trillion; Medicare is \$32 trillion and Medicaid \$74 trillion, for a grand total of \$154 trillion in fiscal mismanagement by our elected officials. Their solution? Modern Monetary Theory (MMT) will increase politicians' power while destroying the average middle-class family via inflation, which is an invisible tax on every purchase (Baker 2021; Kedhi, 2021). The United States government is following in the footsteps of the ancient, bankrupted Roman Empire. Between 200 and 300 AD, the Romans experienced a pandemic that impacted their economy; excess spending and the subsequent devaluation of their currency was followed by surging inflation, and government attempts at price control: the Roman politicians destroyed their empire (Temin, 2006; Matthews, 2001; Malchow, 2011). The United States is being led down the same path of destruction by our political elites: the Chinese are watching and salivating.

Section 2: Information and Intelligence

CJCS (2018) defines the essence of the informational instrument as creating, exploiting, and disrupting knowledge. Information itself is a strategic resource vital to national security (DA, 2008, p. 2-2). The traditional DIME construct of national instruments of power (NIOPs) incorporated intelligence into the informational instrument, which was appropriate because all intelligence is a form of information. However, with DIMEFIL, doctrine artificially separated information and intelligence, so this analysis corrects this error and combines both concepts once again, after all, intelligence is merely a refined subset of information. Intelligence as a NIOP is a more specific tool with a deliberate focus that is controlled by the U.S. Government (USG). Informational power projects information to shape an environment, whereas intelligence seeks to gather information to understand the environment and inform USG decision-making (DA, 2008, p. 2-4). This research paper uses these simple terms: 'information' relates to raw, unverified, and unevaluated data, gathered from numerous sources; and intelligence refers to processed, evaluated, and perspective-driven data that is gathered from trusted sources (Cyware, 2018). Section 2 of this paper discusses the destruction of credibility in the information and intelligence arenas.

U.S. Information & Intelligence Fallacies (and Outright Lies)

Every politician lies, some more than others, and then they often try to cover up the lies with more lies. Some of the more memorable lies include:

- G.H.W. Bush said, "Read my lips, no new taxes" (Rothman, 2018).
- Clinton said, "I did not have sexual relations with that woman, Miss Lewinsky" (Nelson, 2013).

- G.W. Bush never *publicly* blamed Saddam Hussein or Iraq for the events of September 11, but he consistently, and falsely linked Iraq with terrorism and al Qaeda (Gershkoff & Kushner, 2005).
- Obama's biggest lie was, "If you like your health care plan, you'll be able to keep your health care plan" (Sohanik, 2020) which was tied directly to "the average family is saving \$2,400 a year on their premiums" (Peters & Wooley, 2022). Neither promise was kept.
- Trump's biggest lie, "I will ask, to appoint a special prosecutor. We have to investigate Hillary Clinton, and we have to investigate the investigation" (Jacobson, 2020).
- Biden and his team have repeatedly told the MMT-lie that his nearly \$2 trillion tax-and-spending spree is fully paid for, won't add to the deficit, and costs zero dollars (Kessler, 2021). In addition, Biden has invented an imaginary "White Supremacist" threat that will be addressed in another section.

Consequences? G.H.W. Bush signed new taxes into law, thereby ensuring his election defeat. Clinton was impeached for lying under oath after DNA proved that he left semen on a blue dress owned by intern Monica Lewinski. G.W. Bush sent US Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines into Iraq, even though Iraq had absolutely no connection to the 9/11 attacks. Obama's Affordable Care Act (ACA) was not affordable! Rather than saving families \$4200 per year, ACA more than doubled health insurance costs for workers and families (Haislmaier, et. al., 2021). And Trump never locked 'her' up; Hillary Clinton is still at large and not yet prosecuted. Although each of these lies had very negative consequences, from a foreign intelligence perspective they were of interest, but might not have been not exploitable by Chinese 3W. Hence, the next two sections will inform the most serious disinformation to affect US National Security and confidence in U.S. political elitists as well as the mainstream media (MSM).

Disinformation #1: The Second Biggest Lie of the Century: Cybercrime Impacting National Security

On March 2, 2015, the New York Times wrote that Clinton had a secret, personal server (Schmidt, 2015). Hillary Clinton's server was never certified as secure by the State Department as rules required, recommending DOS issue regular notices to remind Department employees of the risks associated with the use of non-Departmental systems (OIG, 2016). Documents uncovered by the FBI show that Mr. Obama used a pseudonym in communicating with Hillary Clinton on her private email account (Sanchez, 2016; Jarrett, 2019). While on foreign visits Clinton incessantly used her unprotected BlackBerry to send and receive classified emails susceptible to interception by foreign governments (Stout, 2016; Jarrett, 2019). Classified information was exposed to foreign threats and interception. The FBI confirmed that seven email chains with 110 of her emails had classified (Secret & Top Secret) information at the time they were sent or received (Comey, 2016; Jarrett, 2019).

Clinton claimed that "I never sent nor received any email that was marked classified." but, James Comey, who was the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) from 2013 to 2017, stated this was not true. In addition, Clinton said, "everything I did was permitted by law and regulation." Not true! Washington Post gave Hillary four 'Pinocchios' in fact-checking (Ye, 2016; Jarrett, 2019). March 4, 2015, the U.S. Congress directed Clinton to preserve all her emails. Three weeks later, on March 25, more than 30,000 emails were deleted using Bleach-Bit (Chuang, 2016; Hicks, 2016; Jarrett, 2019). Unprosecuted Hillary committed numerous felonies:

- Converting government records for personal use is a felony under 18 US Code 641.
- Destroying government documents is a violation of 18 USC 2017(b).
- Making a materially false claim to Congress is a crime per 18 USC 1001 and is considered an obstruction of justice under 18 USC 1505 and 1515(b).
- On July 5, 2016, FBI Director Comey stated, that 110 emails in 52 email chains were classified; 8 were "Top Secret" (TS); 36 chains Secret (S)... This is a violation of 18 USC 793(d, e, f), and 18 USC 1924(a). Note: 18 USC 793(f) of the Espionage Act governs this type of gross negligence. (Comey, 2016; Ye, 2016; Jarrett, 2019).

Comey assessed that "hostile actors gained access to the private commercial email accounts of people with whom Secretary Clinton was in regular contact from her personal account" (Arter, 2016; Jarrett, 2019).

A broad consensus formed that WikiLeaks' data dump was a diplomatic disaster for the United States (Zakaria, 2010). The Obama administration accused Russia of orchestrating the hacking of emails from Hillary Clinton's campaign chairman and the Democratic National Committee (DNC) to influence the 2016 election; but WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange has repeated his claim that the Russian government was not the source (McKirdy, 2017). In contrast to these claims, the Intelligence Community Inspector General (ICIG) found that virtually all of Clinton's emails were sent to a foreign entity, because the Chinese wrote code that was embedded in Clinton's illegal home server, which generated an instant 'courtesy copy' for nearly every email, forwarding them to the Chinese (Pollock, 2018). Note that the Chinese 'Three Warfare Strategy' (TWS) intends to synchronize media or public opinion warfare, psychological warfare, and legal warfare (Cheng, 2011; Singh, 2013). 3W has evolved into a pursuit of '*intelligentized warfare*' that is intended to directly control the will of the highest decision-makers (Bergman, 2022), potentially including our presidential candidates. Despite overwhelming evidence, Hillary has not yet been convicted of her crimes – Comey did not have the legal authority to simply let her off the hook.

Disinformation #2: Biggest Lie of the Century: Clinton's Russia Hoax

According to Jarrett (2019), the Clinton campaign and the Democratic National Committee (DNC) paid a law firm to create a dossier: a collection of fake documents that claimed Donald Trump and his campaign colluded with Russia to win the presidential election in 2016. When something seems inappropriate, just follow the money. So, Jarrett (2016), OIG (2016), OIG (2019), Wood (2020), and Mallin (2021) determined that:

- The Democratic National Committee (DNC) paid the Perkins-Coie, LLP, the Law firm of Marc Elias \$12.6 million.
- Marc Elias paid Glenn Simpson, of Fusion GPS \$1.02 million.
- Fusion GPS paid Orbis Business Intelligence \$168,000 for dossier research.
- Orbis Business Intelligence paid Christopher Steele, a former British spy.
- British agent Christopher Steele then paid Russian operatives to create Hillary's fake Russia collusion dossier against Donald Trump between June and December 2016
- Michael Sussmann, an attorney for the Perkins Coie law, firm provided Hillary's fake dossier to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI); Sussman was indicted for lying to the FBI about his role.

Hillary funded a fake dossier that accused Trump of collusion with the Russians, even though the alleged collusion is not a crime under U.S. law as it pertains to political campaigns. Collusion was claimed, because a Trump campaign volunteer, Carter Page, made a trip to Moscow to give a speech at their New Economic School commencement ceremony, which is not a crime. Even though testimony revealed that Trump and Carter Page had never communicated; an investigation of the fake-allegation continued for four years. DA (2008) identifies that the manipulation of information can be an effective weapon that can shape a target's perceptions (DA, 2008, p. 2-11). In military terminology, the DNC and Hillary's campaign were conducting a highly successful psychological operations (PSYOPS) campaign against a duly elected president. This was sedition.

The FBI surveilled Carter Page and the Trump campaign using four Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) warrants that began in 2014 but found no evidence. Carter Page has never been charged with a crime since the facts did not support Hillary's fake dossier. Yet, Hillary's fake dossier was the pretext for the FBI investigation of Donald Trump and his campaign. President Obama's Director of National Intelligence (DNI) James Clapper leaked the unsubstantiated dossier to CNN. Initially, Clapper lied to Congress about leaking the contents of the dossier, but he later confessed to discussing it with journalists. CNN published an article, and BuzzFeed published the entire defamatory dossier – this was the genesis of Trump's tweets about "*fake news*" (Bensinger, et.al., 2017; Davis, 2018; Easley, 2018; Jarrett, 2019; OIG, 2019).

President Obama's CIA Chief, John Brennan, directed the FBI to start a Trump-Russia investigation based on Hillary's fake dossier. In May 2017, Brennan testified that he instigated the FBI investigation

(Borger, 2017; Johnson, et. al., 2020). Next, Brennan gave a copy of Hillary's fake dossier to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid. So, Senator Harry Reid sent two letters to James Comey (FBI) demanding an investigation (Reid, 2016), and the FBI opened Crossfire Hurricane on July 31, 2016 (OIG, 2019).

Christopher Steele, a former British intelligence officer, created a dossier with the intention of preventing Donald Trump from being elected as President. Despite Steele's bias being recorded in FBI files, it was not disclosed in the warrant applications presented to the court. Steele was terminated by the FBI for lying about his contacts with the media but was not charged or prosecuted. He continued to have contact with Bruce Ohr, a DOJ attorney, who received research from his wife, Nellie Ohr, who worked for Fusion GPS, the organization behind the anti-Trump research. This raised questions of conflicts of interest and false testimony, as their work relationship with Steele and Fusion GPS was concealed from the court (Jarrett, 2019; Shane, 2019; Solomon, 2019).

FBI Director James Comey informed President Trump that the dossier was unverified and salacious but did not give a complete briefing. The FBI deemed the dossier "minimally corroborated", yet Deputy Director Andrew McCabe stated that no surveillance warrant would have been sought without the dossier information. Despite knowing its unreliability and lack of verification, Comey, Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, and McCabe signed the warrant application(s). An OIG investigation found that FBI personnel did not ensure factual accuracy in the FISA application, as required by FBI policy (Manchester, 2018; Jarrett, 2019; OIG, 2019, p. viii).

OIG found that the FISA applications overplayed the information supporting probable cause to investigate the Trump campaign and identified 17 significant errors or omissions in the Carter Page FISA applications. The FBI sought to validate their desire to surveil Page, allowing them to extend surveillance to Page's email contacts and Trump's inner circle. A key email identified Page as a reliable source, which should have ended the FISA warrants. However, an FBI Attorney, Kevin Clinesmith, altered the email to say that Page was "not a source" for another agency, which was used to justify the surveillance of the Trump campaign. Clinesmith pleaded guilty to the forgery and received one year of probation (OIG, 2019; Phillips et al., 2021).

On May 17, 2017, Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein announced the appointment of a special counsel to conduct a full and thorough investigation of the Russian government's efforts to interfere in the 2016 presidential election (Mueller, 2019, p. 19). Mueller's task was to investigate any links between the Russian government, and anyone associated with the Trump campaign. Mueller's team included 19 lawyers supported by 40 FBI agents, along with intelligence analysts, forensic accountants, and other staff. The nearly two-year special counsel investigation of Russian election interference led by Robert Mueller cost American taxpayers nearly \$32 million in total (Breuninger, 2019). The key findings were:

- "In March 2016, the GRU began hacking the email accounts of Clinton campaign volunteers and employees, including campaign chairman John Podesta" (Mueller, 2019, p. 41).
- "Trump campaign showed interest in WikiLeaks releases of documents and welcomed their potential damage to candidate Clinton." (Mueller, 2019, p. 41)
- "The Special Counsel's investigation did not find that the Trump campaign or anyone associated with it conspired or coordinated with Russia in its efforts to influence the 2016 presidential election." (Mueller, 2019, p. 23)

Rod Rosenstein appointed Robert Mueller as Special Counsel to investigate Trump after Comey was fired for misconduct. However, this created an illegal conflict of interest, as Mueller was a close friend of Comey (28 CFR 600.7) (Hosenball, 2018). Additionally, the political origins of the fake dossier, funded by the Hillary Clinton campaign and the DNC, were not disclosed in the surveillance warrants, despite being known by senior FBI officials. This lack of disclosure should have rendered the dossier unreliable under the law (OIG, 2019).

The "So What?" of Information and Intelligence

Bergman (2019) wrote that according to three reports written in 2019 by the People's Liberation Army, China has been doing brain-control or brain warfare research for several years as part of developing their

concept of intelligentization (智能化) warfare. “War has started to shift from the pursuit of destroying bodies to paralyzing and controlling the opponent” (Bergman, 2019; Gertz, 2019; Noon, et.al., 2021).

The Clinton email scandal revealed a vulnerability that Chinese intelligence could exploit, yet Clinton was not prosecuted, demonstrating a double standard in the US justice system (Arter, 2016; Telfeyan, 2022). The investigation into Trump’s alleged collusion with Russia was a distraction that paralyzed the executive branch and created an opening for foreign interference through fake dossiers and psychological warfare (Bergman, 2019; Gertz, 2019; Noon, et.al., 2021). Clinton’s anti-Trump Russia collusion hoax was a large psychological operation that shows how the US legal system can be exploited for political gain (Noon, 2021).

Finally, A suspected Chinese intelligence operative developed extensive ties with politicians from 2011 to 2015, including U.S. Representative Eric Swalwell, who had romantic ties with a suspected Chinese spy named Fang Fang. Despite calls for his removal from the House Intelligence Committee, Swalwell was not removed and retains access to classified information. This political intelligence operation by China’s main civilian spy agency highlights the US government’s vulnerability to foreign exploitation, as while the FBI was investigating Russian collusion, the Chinese were exploiting politicians. (Allen-Ebrahimian, et.al., 2020; Wise, 2020).

Section 3: Diplomacy and Defense

Doctrine

Diplomacy and Defense are addressed together in this section because they are on the opposite sides of the same coin; toss the coin and we have either a diplomatic solution or we have war. CJCS (2018) defines the essence of the diplomatic instrument as engagement—how a nation interacts with state or non-state actors, generally to secure some form of agreement that allows the conflicting parties to coexist peacefully. (CJCS, 2018, p. II-5). However, the diplomatic instrument of national power is the principal instrument for engaging with other states and foreign groups to advance U.S. values, interests, and objectives. However, without the credible threat of force, diplomacy is inadequate against a determined adversary. DA (2008) writes that the United States avoids resorting to military force, preferring to wield all other instruments of power in the pursuit of national objectives and the context of international competition and conflict. The diplomatic instrument is the principal tool for engaging with other states and advancing U.S. interests, but military force is often necessary to achieve national objectives (CJCS, 2018, p. II-5; DA, 2008, p. 2-2). (DA, 2008, p. 2-2). Doctrine truly paints a wonderful picture of diplomacy, but historically, this has not typically been the case.

Research conducted by the Jang Group and Geo Television Network revealed that the United States has been at war for about 225 of the 243 years, since its inception in 1776 (Shah, 2020). However, if one only focuses on conventional warfare, the United States has been at war 103 years out of 246 years of existence, or about 42% of all years of US existence. So, it is important to understand the potential interface and synergies between defense and diplomacy. Within the American system of government, the Ambassador is the senior government official in each country, representing the U.S. President directly. So, when military forces are employed, the 4-Star Combatant Commander, who might be in command of 500,000 soldiers might be subordinate to an ambassador who was been a Real Estate broker prior to the last election. According to Kroll (2013), U.S. ambassadorships are frequently granted to bundlers and significant donors to presidential campaigns as a form of reward. Unfortunately, this practice can lead to dysfunction in diplomatic and military operations overseas. The author, who has worked at five different embassies, argues that ambassadors are not always the most qualified individuals within the embassy. In some cases, they may simply have political connections with no other relevant qualifications.

During the Cold War, the bipolar rivalry between the United States and the former Soviet Union had an important role in how each country defined ‘dangerous or unacceptable’ leaders and parties in other countries. Based on these assessments, between 1946 and 2000, the US and the Soviet Union or Russia intervened in about 1/9th of every competitive foreign national-level executive election (Levin, 2019; Shane, 2018), so it should be no surprise to us that Russians were attempting to influence American elections. Section 2 of this paper discussed the Mueller Report; the Office of the Director of National Intelligence

(ODNI) also conducted an assessment. ODNI (2017) stated that Russia, like its Soviet predecessor, has a history of conducting covert influence campaigns focused on US presidential elections that have used intelligence officers and agents and press placements to disparage candidates who are perceived as hostile to the Kremlin (ODNI, 2017, p. ii).

According to the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) (2017), as well as Shane (2018) and Levin (2019), the Russian government conducted a sophisticated campaign to influence the 2016 U.S. election. However, it is worth noting that the United States has also engaged in similar activities around the world. In 2016, the Russians reportedly spent around \$100,000 on Facebook and another \$50,000 on other sites in an attempt to sway the election (NBC, 2017). This pales in comparison to the estimated \$1.5 billion spent by presidential candidates (FEC, 2017), making the alleged impact of Russian “influence operations” relatively small at just 0.0001 of all spending. Despite this, the mainstream media portrayed Russian efforts as more influential than they actually were.

As Clausewitz (1984) famously stated, “every war is a failure of diplomacy.” Therefore, it is relevant to discuss the number of wars and instances of election interference in a section on diplomacy. According to Barkawi (2015), diplomacy involves dialogue and negotiation between states to pursue their goals without resorting to war. However, since its founding, the United States has experienced numerous diplomatic failures that resulted in war. In fact, the United States has been at war for 42% of its existence, suggesting that American diplomacy may be ineffective or, at best, marginal.

Sun Tzu (2011) believed that the best form of warfare is to subdue the enemy without fighting. In contrast, Clausewitz (1984) argued that war is a continuation of policy by other means. Unfortunately, the American approach to diplomacy often involves the use of gunboat diplomacy, which relies on military might to achieve foreign policy objectives. For example, in 1903, President Roosevelt dispatched warships to support Panamanian rebels in their quest for independence from Colombia, ultimately leading to peace negotiations. However, the Monroe Doctrine, which relied heavily on gunboat diplomacy, often had negative consequences when coupled with presidential arrogance.

George H. W. Bush, January 20, 1989 – January 20, 1993

George H. W. Bush kept the United States on a wartime footing for most of his time in office. In 1989, the President ordered the military invasion of the Country of Panama ostensibly to protect the lives of American citizens (Bush, 1989). As a result of this invasion, Panamanian President General Manuel Noriega was removed, and President-elect Guillermo Endara was sworn into office. Noriega was captured and brought to the U.S. to face charges of racketeering and drug trafficking. The United Nations (UN) General Assembly, the European Parliament, as well as the Organization of American States (OAS) condemned the invasion as a violation of international law (History, 2010).

Next, G.H.W. Bush deployed the US military into the Middle East beginning in 1990, prompted by Saddam Hussein’s military invasion of Kuwait, and we have been there ever since. Bush ordered the forward deployment of substantial elements of the U.S. armed forces into the Persian Gulf region to help defend Saudi Arabia after the 2 August 1990 invasion of Kuwait by Iraq. In contrast to the unilateral invasion of Panama, Bush sought and received UN support for the liberation of Kuwait. On November 29, 1990, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 678 by a vote of 12 to 2 (Cuba and Yemen opposed), thereby sanctioning the use of force if the Iraqis did not leave Kuwait by January 15, 1991 (UN, 1990). Operation Desert Storm included offensive air operations from 17 January 1991 to 11 April 1991, and a short, but deadly Allied ground offensive from 24-27 Feb 1991. During air and ground operations, U.S. and allied forces destroyed over 3,000 tanks, 1,400 armored personnel carriers, and 2,200 artillery pieces along with countless other vehicles. This was achieved at a cost to the United States of 96 soldiers killed in action and 105 non-hostile deaths (CMH, 1991; CRS, 2022). The U.S. and Saudi Arabia have a Mutual Defense Assistance Agreement, signed in 1951, but no formal treaty as is required by the U.S. Constitution.

William Clinton, January 20, 1993 – January 20, 2001

William Clinton inherited Operation Provide Comfort from G.H.W. Bush providing humanitarian relief and military protection for Kurdish people from 1991 to 1996; the U.S. military also supported a

humanitarian relief operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the Yugoslav Wars, from 1992 to 1996. From 1992 to 2003, the USAF and allies enforced ‘no-fly zones’ over most of the sovereign Iraqi airspace, prohibiting Iraqi flights in zones in southern and northern Iraq, conducting aerial reconnaissance, and several specific attacks on Iraqi air-defense systems. On April 12, 1993, in response to a United Nations Security Council passage of Resolution 816, U.S. and NATO began enforcement of the no-fly zone over the Bosnian airspace (UN, 1993); NATO became involved in the first combat situation when NATO U.S. Air Force F-16 jets shot down four Bosnian Serb J-21 Jastreb single-seat light attack jets for violating UN-mandated no-fly zone. Then in 1995, U.S. and NATO aircraft began a bombing campaign of Bosnian Serb Army positions that led to the Dayton Agreement in December 1995.

The Somalia Civil War precipitated the adoption of UN Security Council resolution 751 on 24 April 1992 (then Resolution 814 of 1993), which led to the arrival of United Nations (UN) military observers in July 1992, and was followed by a larger peacekeeping force. Clinton approved U.S. military deployments into Somalia on a peacekeeping mission due to the Somali war and civilian starvation, from August 1992 to March 1994. Tribalism was on display as warring political factions, supported by their private armies, amassed food stockpiles to use as bargaining chips and signs of their power. The militias led by the Somali warlord Mohamed Farrah Aidid began attacking and killing U.N. peacekeepers. Therefore, on October 3–4, 1993, Task Force Ranger entered a hostile urban area in Mogadishu to seize two of Aidid’s lieutenants. The result: two American UH-60 Black Hawks were shot down, and 18 Americans were killed, with another 83 wounded, and 1 captured. Various estimates placed Somali casualties between 500 and 1,500 (CMH, 1994; CRS, 2022). After Mogadishu, President Clinton became wary of deploying ground forces anywhere (Bowden, 2019; CRS, 2022).

Osama bin Laden published his “*Declaration of War against the Americans occupying the Land of the Two Holy Places*,” on August 23, 1996 (OBL, 1996); then, in February 1998, Osama Bin Laden issued a fatwah under the banner of the “*International Islamic Front for Jihad on the Jews and Crusaders*.” It was published in the Al-Quds al-‘Arabi on February 23, 1998, and stated that Muslims should kill Americans – including civilians – anywhere in the world where they can be found (Tierney, 2016). Yet, the Canada-U.S. “North American Threat Assessment was never updated to reflect an asymmetric threat” (BPG, 2004, p. 10), which was both a diplomatic and a military failure. In support of the fatwa, there were three significant attacks by Islamic extremists: two U.S. embassies and one U.S. Naval ship. On August 7, 1998, nearly simultaneous bombs blew up at the American embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, in Africa (Tierney, 2016; CRS, 2021a; CRS, 2022). Two hundred and twenty-four people died in the blasts, including 12 Americans, and more than 4,500 people were wounded. The FBI and U.S. military personnel were deployed to coordinate the medical and disaster assistance related to the bombings. These attacks were directly linked to al Qaeda; therefore, on August 20, President Clinton ordered a cruise missile attack against two suspected terrorist training camps in Afghanistan and a suspected chemical factory in Sudan. On October 12, 2000, the USS Cole was attacked by suicide bombers, while in port in Aden, Yemen, for refueling. The explosion ripped a hole in the hull of the ship, killing 17 U.S. sailors; and 39 others were injured. These attacks were attributed to al Qaeda, and they foreshadowed the attack on 9/11 against the United States less than one year later (CNN, 2013; CRS, 2022).

George W. Bush, January 20, 2001 – January 20, 2009

Perhaps the single greatest diplomatic failure in recent history was George W. Bush’s ultimatum to the Taliban. After the 9/11 attacks against the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, President Bush’s ultimatums and his administration’s ignorance of Afghan culture provoked a fight with Afghanistan’s Taliban that would last 22 years. Bush (2001) stated the evidence we have gathered all points to a collection of loosely affiliated terrorist organizations known as al Qaeda. He then tied the Taliban, which was the government of Afghanistan, to al Qaeda, stating, “The United States respects the people of Afghanistan – after all, we are currently its largest source of humanitarian aid – but we condemn the Taliban regime ... by aiding and abetting murder, the Taliban regime is committing murder. And tonight, the United States of America makes the following demands on the Taliban:”

- Deliver to United States authorities all the leaders of Al Qaeda who hide in your land.

- Release all foreign nationals, including American citizens you have unjustly imprisoned.
- Protect foreign journalists, diplomats, and aid workers in your country.
- Close immediately and permanently every terrorist training camp in Afghanistan.
- And hand over every terrorist and every person and their support structure to appropriate authorities.
- Give the United States full access to terrorist training camps, so we can make sure they are no longer operating (Bush, 2001).

Bush (2001) used an ineffective, tough-guy demeanor that resonated at home, he closed with “these demands are not open to negotiation or discussion,” thereby leaving zero room for diplomacy. CNN (2001) reported that the Taliban supreme leader, Mullah Mohammed Omar, was considering the recommendation by Muslim clerics to ask suspected terrorist ringleader Osama bin Laden to leave the country. The Afghan Council of Clerics expressed grief over the 9/11 terrorist attacks against New York and Washington and urged the U.S. to be patient in its investigations. But the Grand Islamic Council in Kabul also warned that if the U.S. attacks Afghanistan, the Taliban would call a jihad or “holy war” against the U.S. and its allies (CNN, 2001).

Congress passed the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF) in the days after the Sept. 11 attacks. The AUMF was designed to give President Bush the power to use force and to defend the U.S. against future attacks. So, Bush rashly abandoned diplomacy in favor of military use of force. If Bush had chosen diplomacy he could have (1) queried the DOD personnel database to find Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines who had Afghan ancestry, Pashtun or Dari language skills, and preferably Pashtun familial-tribal connection; (2) established a diplomatic link to the Taliban using Afghan-American personnel, (3) then negotiated for the surrender of Osama bin Laden, and (4) avoided 20 years of warfare. This failure of diplomacy resulted in \$2 trillion in greater debt, 2,448 dead American service members; 3,846 dead U.S. contractors; 1,144 dead NATO members, and 66,000 dead Afghan military and police (AP, 2021). Tragic!

G.W. Bush showed a greater amount of arrogance, not diplomacy, as the United States prepared for entry into Iraq. On March 17, 2003, Bush gave Saddam Hussein and his sons 48 hours to give up power and go into exile; alternatively, Iraq would face invasion by more than a quarter of a million troops massed on Iraq’s borders (Borger, 2003; Bush, 2003). The UN Security Council passed Resolutions 678 and 687, and despite Resolution 1441, the former measures had been working with minor breaches. Bush (2003) falsely attempted to connect Iraq’s leader, Saddam Hussein, to the arming of terrorists in the region. Bush (2003) stated, “If Saddam Hussein attempts to cling to power, he will remain a deadly foe ... he and terrorist groups might try to conduct terrorist operations against the American people and our friends.” There was no connection between the 9/11 terrorists, Wahabis extremists, and Saddam Hussein: none. Bush’s arrogance measured in blood and treasure: 4,586 service members died in Iraq, and the war cost \$2 trillion (Cachero, 2020; Statistica, 2021).

Barak Hussein Obama, January 20, 2009 – January 20, 2017

Nobel Peace Prize Winner, Barak Obama’s diplomacy record was no better than Bush’s failed diplomacy. Obama inherited the Afghanistan and Iraq Wars, and although he publicly spoke out against the Iraq invasion in October 2002, Obama kept the American military engaged in both countries – there were drawdowns without closure. Obama also inserted the U.S. military, typically often special operations forces, into conflicts throughout the globe including: the al-Qaeda insurgency in Yemen (2010); military strikes on suspected al-Qaeda, al-Shabaab, and ISIS positions in Yemen (2011); military intervention in Libya: Operation Odyssey Dawn (2011); strikes on al-Shabaab militants begin in Somalia (2011); Uganda: support Uganda against the Lord’s Resistance Army (2011); troops deployed to Jordan to help it contain the Syrian Civil War (2012); soldiers and Patriot missiles sent to Turkey (2012); assisted the French in Mali (2013); USAF supported the French in Somalia (2013); special operations raids in Somalia and Libya (2013); increased military members sent to Uganda (2014); intervention in Iraq to support Iraqi and Kurdish fighters (2014); airstrikes against Islamic State of Iraq & Syria (ISIS), a.k.a. Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), aligned forces throughout northern Iraq (2014); failed rescue mission in Syria (2014); increased

intervention in Syria, and bombing of ISIS positions in Syria (2014); airstrikes on al-Qaeda, al-Nusra Front & Khorasan positions (2014); continuous attacks on ISIS/ISIL & al-Nusra Front positions in both Iraq and Syria (2014); raids in Yemen against al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) (2014); USN ships were sent to the Strait of Hormuz in response to Iran; U.S. military troops sent to Cameroon to provide support to local forces (2015) (CRS, 2020). The most-reported engagements included U.S. attacks against ISIS/ISIL, and to a lesser extent Obama's military support of the Nigerian army against Boko Haram, support of Uganda against the Lord's Resistance Army, as well as combat soldiers supporting the Philippines against Abu Sayyaf, an Islamic State affiliate, and other Qaeda-linked militants (CRS, 2022; Wikipedia, 2022).

Despite the many deployments and military engagements described in the former paragraph, Obama will be most remembered for *not* responding militarily in support of U.S. interests in Benghazi, Libya. On September 11, 2012, allegedly members of Ansar al-Sharia attacked the American diplomatic compound in Benghazi resulting in the deaths of U.S. Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens and U.S. Foreign Service Information Management Officer Sean Smith, as well as two former SEALs, Tyrone S. Woods and Glen Doherty, who were CIA contractors defending the consulate (CRS, 2022); Ansar al-Sharia denies being behind the attack (BBC, 2012). Senior members of the Obama administration including Susan Rice claimed that the attack on the U.S. consulate was triggered by "an amateur video made in the U.S. that mocks Islam" (BBC, 2012), which was disproven by testimony in the 112th House Hearing on the Security Failures of Benghazi, "contrary to early assertions by the administration, let's understand there was no protest" (HH112, 2012). The consulate building did not meet U.S. Government security standards, and the Ambassador's multiple requests for increases in security personnel prior to the attack were not approved (HH112, 2012). It was not until September 14, 2012, that the President reported to Congress, consistent with the War Powers Resolution, that on September 12, 2012, he ordered deployed to Libya "a security force from the U.S. Africa Command" to "support the security of U.S. personnel in Libya" in a long overdue response to the attack (CRS, 2022).

Obama was named the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize laureate, which was a decision that subsequently earned criticism based on numerous military deployments. Former Nobel secretary, Geir Lundestad, expressed regret for giving the Nobel Peace Prize to Obama, writing in his memoirs that "even many of Obama's supporters believed that the prize was a mistake" (BBC, 2015). After all, Obama directed or approved 506 drone strikes against militants and terrorists, with a death toll of close to 400 civilians, exceeding 195 civilian deaths under his predecessor (De Rugy, 2017). The peace-prize president? Nonsense! Obama was just another gunboat president, who spoke charismatically, and carried a very big stick throughout the world. Barak will most likely be remembered for his diplomatic and military failures at Benghazi, not a rigged peace prize.

Donald Trump, January 20, 2017 – January 20, 2021

President Donald Trump inherited the conflict with the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria/Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS/ISIL), from the Obama administration, so this background is necessary. ISIS/ISIL was founded during the Bush administration in 2004, by Abu Musab al Zarqawi from the remnants of al Qaeda in Iraq (AQI). It faded into obscurity due to the surge of U.S. troops to Iraq in 2007, but it began to reemerge during the Obama administration, after most U.S. troops left Iraq on 18 December 2011. After the American withdrawal, ISIS took advantage of the growing instability in Iraq and Syria to bolster its ranks. At its height, ISIS controlled about one-third of Syria and 40 percent of Iraq. In 2014, ISIS/ISIL took over Raqqa declaring it their capital and announcing the establishment of an Islamic Caliphate. In September 2014, Obama directed strikes against ISIS in Syria, even though Congress never took a full vote on an ISIS war authorization (Glenn, et.al., 2019). By the end of the Obama administration, the Islamic State remained the world's deadliest militant organization despite losing fighters and territory in Iraq and Syria, according to a report from the University of Maryland. In 2016, the Islamic State carried out more than 1,400 attacks and killed more than 7,000 people, a 20 percent increase from 2015 (Miller, 2017).

Therefore, the Trump administration continued Obama's bombing campaign against ISIS after Trump's inauguration (Copp, 2017), but he increased the number and intensity. The Syrian Observatory for Human

Rights confirmed that ISIS Caliph Abu Bakr al Baghdadi was killed on July 11, 2017. By the end of Trump's first year in office, ISIS/ISIL had lost 95 percent of its territory, including its two biggest properties, Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city, and the northern Syrian city of Raqqa, its nominal capital (Glenn, et.al., 2019). On December 19, 2018, President Trump signaled his intent to withdraw the 2,000 U.S. forces from Syria. He tweeted, "We have defeated ISIS in Syria, (which was) my only reason for being there" (Trump, 2018).

Under President Trump, the U.S. strategy in Afghanistan was described in April 2017 as an increase in special operations forces to train, advise and assist Afghan forces; a more robust plan to go after elements in Pakistan that aid the Taliban; the deployment of more air power and artillery; and a political commitment to the survival of the current government in Kabul. Trump (2017) concluded "that the security threats we face in Afghanistan and the broader region are immense. (and) we must stop the resurgence of safe havens that enable terrorists to threaten America" (Trump, 2017; Dobbins, 2017; Nakamura, et.al., 2017). On 29 February 2020, the US, and the Taliban signed an Agreement for Bringing Peace to Afghanistan, which outlined the withdrawal from Afghanistan of all U.S. and Allied military forces; the agreement had a target of 14 months to complete, however, the pullout was dependent on the Taliban meeting commitments to prevent terrorism (DOS, 2020; George, 2020; Lee, et.al., 2020).

Intra-Afghan peace talks, between the Taliban and the Afghan government, were established to develop a power-sharing settlement. USIP (2020) stated that the many Afghan tribes would begin to negotiate a political agreement that balances power among different ethnic groups, religious visions, and economic and social outlooks that span a rural-urban divide (DOS, 2020; USIP, 2020). Although this agreement was a diplomatic success, Trump did not see its implementation, because he lost his bid for a second term in the White House. President Trump had several personal and diplomatic wins including:

- In 2019, Japan's Prime Minister nominated Trump for a Noble Peace Prize after Trump's summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un: the first-ever meeting between a North Korean leader and a sitting U.S. president (Galioto, 2019).
- Trump was also nominated for a Noble Peace Prize by Norwegian lawmakers, "for the positive developments on the Korean Peninsula ... (largely) due to Trump's unconventional diplomatic style" (Fouche, 2019).
- President Donald Trump was nominated for the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize for his role in brokering a peace deal between Israel and the United Arab Emirates (Ray, 2020).
- Trump was nominated for his work for peace and economic development after the Serbia-Kosovo cooperation agreement was signed in the White House since trade and communications are important building blocks for peace (Shaw, 2020).
- President Trump has received a third nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize citing his recent role in helping broker relations between Israel and the United Arab Emirates (Folley, 2020).

What made Trump different than his four predecessors? Trump's doctrine was he would no longer have America involved in endless wars that achieve nothing but the killing of thousands of young people. Australian law professor, David Flint said, "So, he's reducing America's tendency to get involved in any and every war" (Folley, 2020). Mr. Trump did not receive the Noble Peace Prize, but he is in good company, for Mahatma Gandhi was also nominated five times, and did not receive the Noble Peace Prize either (Mohan, 2020).

Joseph Biden, January 20, 2021 – Present

Afghanistan. On April 15, 2021, President Biden announced that the United States would begin the final withdrawal of U.S. troops out of Afghanistan, starting on May 1, 2021 (OPS, 2021a). On May 25, 2021, U.S. Central Command estimated the withdrawal was "somewhere between 16% and 25% complete" (DoD, 2021). On July 5, 2021, the Taliban announced their intention to present a written peace plan to the Afghan Government in August but that did not happen (Brunnstrom, 2021). Hence, U.S. withdrawal should have been delayed – but it wasn't. On July 8, 2021, President Biden announced that the military mission in

Afghanistan would conclude on August 31, 2021, and the “number of U.S. forces in Afghanistan had been reduced to a bare minimum” (DOD, 2021b; CRS, 2022).

As the United States was completing its military withdrawal, the Taliban armed supporters entered the Afghan capital of Kabul, rapidly taking over the country. Afghan President Ashraf Ghani fled the country to Tajikistan (Husain, et.al., 2021). Once again, the U.S. withdrawal should have been delayed – it wasn’t. On August 30, 2021, Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin III announced that the United States completed its military evacuation of civilians and withdrew all U.S. forces from Afghanistan CRS, 2021a; CRS, 2022). This was not truthful. The Biden Administration left behind “hundreds, possibly thousands, of American citizens, tens of thousands of Afghan partners, and a legacy of POTUS betrayal of allies” (CFR, 2022, p. 5). Biden, Austin, and Ghani grasped an Allied defeat, from the jaws of victory. Embarrassingly private organizations helped evacuate people from Afghanistan after the U.S. military withdrawal, since Biden and his incompetent Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS), General Milley did not (O’Connor, 2021; Nelson, 2021; Walden, 2021).

The Biden Administration failed at one of the most important roles of the U.S. government, which is the protection of American citizens overseas. The Senate assessment concluded that the “Biden Administration squandered precious time, ignored intelligence and recommendations from people on the ground, and refused bipartisan support to give them the resources to succeed. In the process, the botched withdrawal has tarnished America’s reputation and credibility” (CFR, 2022, p. 33).

Ukraine. The Biden administration seamlessly shifted the strategic focus from defeat in Afghanistan to defense in Europe, due to a Russian build-up of forces on the Ukrainian border:

- On February 2, 2022, DOD announced that approximately 3,000 servicemembers will move to Romania, Poland, and Germany (Garamone, 2022a).
- DOD’s Posture Updates in Support of Allies in Europe stated that “1,000 U.S. Forces repositioned from Germany to Romania; and an additional 2,000 Multi-Mission ‘Assure and Deter’ Forces from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, will deploy to Poland and Germany while 8,500 forces remain in the United States on heightened readiness” (DOD, 2022a).
- On February 11, 2022, a senior defense official said that 3,000 soldiers from the 82nd Airborne Division based at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, would deploy to Europe. (Garamone, 2022b).
- On February 24, 2022, the Defense Secretary conveyed that in the face of Russian aggression, the United States deployed an additional 15,000 forces in recent days and weeks and now has more than 90,000 U.S. service members in Europe (DOD, 2022b).

On 24 February 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine, causing Europe’s largest refugee crisis since World War II (Pita, et.al., 2022). By May, the Russians had deployed 110 operational battalion tactical groups in Ukraine, but they have made small gains, and so far, the Ukrainian military has been holding its own (Garamone, 2022c). The Atlantic Council determined that Russia’s unprovoked attack on Ukraine has demonstrated the importance for the NATO nations of establishing effective deterrence and defense (Kramer, et.al., 2022), which had been neglected for many years. The U.S. Congress approved \$40 billion in aid for Ukraine including \$19 billion for immediate military support, \$16 billion for economic support, and \$3.9 billion to sustain U.S. forces deployed to Europe, as well as \$2 billion for long-term support to NATO allies (Cancian, 2022).

Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Mark Milley said that Ukraine can’t win and should negotiate with Russia (Babbin, 2022), and there are some criticisms about a lack of oversight, and some critics say this is too little money, others say it is too much money, and still others complain that this foreign aid was both too little and too late. Putin protested American and NATO involvement in Ukraine stating, “We aren’t threatening anyone, but everyone should be aware of what we have. And what we will use if required to protect our sovereignty” (Gravitas, 2022). In February 2022, Putin had placed his nuclear force on high alert, and thankfully Biden did not respond in kind.

A journal paper cannot cover every conflict that has occurred due to diplomatic failures; however, this research has tried to cover the most significant diplomatic and military events during six administrations. The next section shifts from U.S. diplomatic failures to domestic Law Enforcement and the Rule of Law.

Section 4: Law Enforcement & the Rule of Law

Doctrine

DA (2008) states that through the law enforcement instrument of national power, the USG is accountable to its people and can govern its territory effectively. The USG has the capability and capacity to—

- Enforce the law and defend the interests of the United States according to the law.
- Ensure public safety against threats foreign and domestic.
- Provide federal leadership in preventing and controlling crime.
- Seek just punishment for those guilty of unlawful behavior.
- Ensure fair and impartial administration of justice for all Americans.

The U.S. Government (USG) has failed in this mission because the USG is neither accountable to its citizens nor does it govern American territory effectively. Prior to moving into current events and the research assessment, several definitions are of key importance to frame the discussion:

- **Rule of Law:** Rule of law is a principle under which all persons, institutions, and entities are accountable to laws that are: Publicly promulgated. Equally enforced. Independently adjudicated. And consistent with international human rights principles (USC, 2022).
- **Posse Comitatus:** The Posse Comitatus Act is a United States federal law signed on June 18, 1878, by President Rutherford B. Hayes which limits the powers of the federal government in the use of federal military personnel to enforce domestic policies within the United States (18 U.S.C. § 1385).
- **Law Enforcement:** Law enforcement describes the agencies and employees responsible for enforcing laws, maintaining public order, and managing public safety. The primary duties of law enforcement include the investigation, apprehension, and detention of individuals suspected of criminal offenses (BJS, 2022).

For U.S. military service members, as well as American business owners, these three concepts are interrelated and will be addressed in the following sections.

Part 1a. Rule of Law – Overview

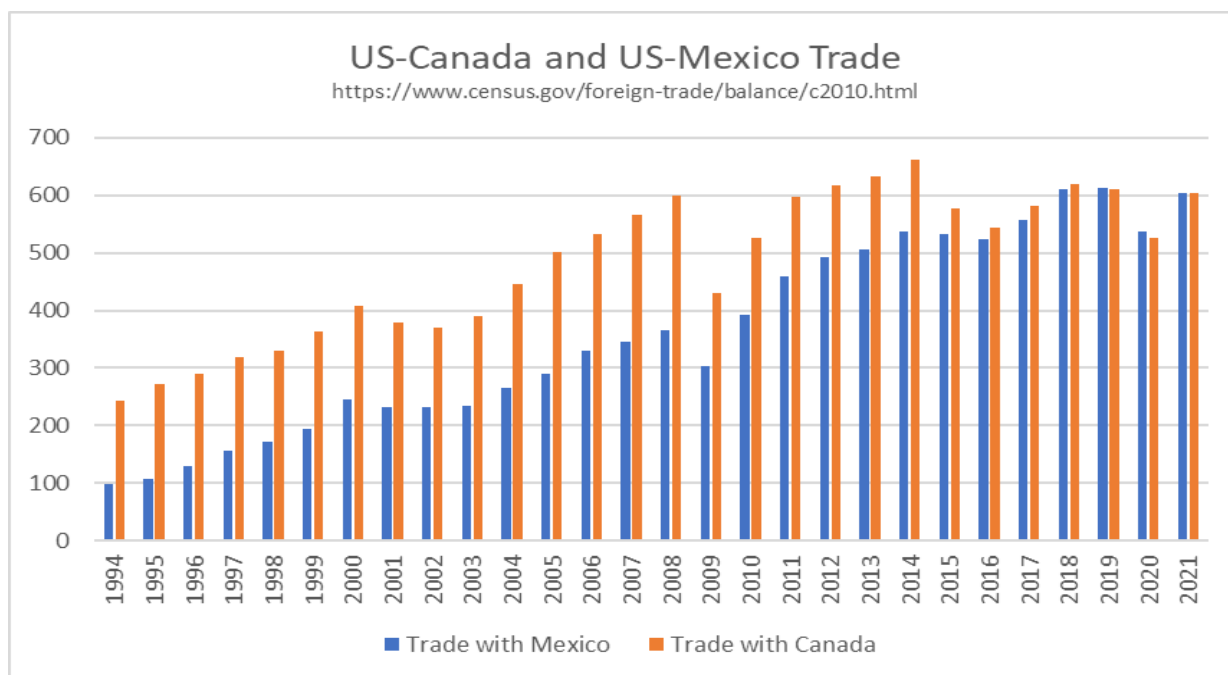
The United States Constitution states that the “Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all treaties made or shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the Supreme Law of the Land” (Article VI, Clause 2) Despite the clarity of this clause, many presidents have used liberal interpretations thereof. For instance, despite a mandate by the U.S. Constitution, which is the highest law of the land, there has not been a Congressional “Declaration of War” since World War 2; so, one can argue that every conflict since 1945 has been unconstitutional. And while Congress passed the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF) just days after the Sept. 11 attacks, it was not a true ‘declaration of war’ against the countries of Afghanistan in 2001 and Iraq in 2003. As discussed in the Literature review, Section 3: Diplomacy and Defense, United States has been at war 103 years out of the 246 years of U.S. existence; most of these conflicts did not present a “clear and present danger to the United States;” however, most conflicts were pursued without a Congressional declaration of war. The U.S. Congress should reassert its power as stipulated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 11 to preclude a future ‘imperial presidency’ or dictator.

Part 1b. Rule of Law – Treaties Versus Agreements

Another critical function of the U.S. Congress is the power to ratify treaties. Article II, Section 2, Clause 2 says the President shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two-thirds of the Senators present concur (Art. I, §8, cls. 11-16). The Executive and Legislative Branches have become lazy, relying heavily upon bilateral and multilateral agreements, and an agreement is not a treaty. For instance, BPG (2004) reported that there are 851 bilateral agreements between Canada and the United States, which are treated as if they were treaties, but they are not (BPG, 2006, p. G-22). International agreements are formal understandings or commitments between two or more countries. An agreement between two countries is called ‘bilateral,’ while an agreement between several countries is

‘multilateral.’ Under international law, a treaty is any legally binding agreement between states (countries); however, per the U.S. Constitution, two-thirds of the Senators must concur to make it legally binding (DOS, 2015).

FIGURE 3
BILATERAL TRADE WITH CANADA AND MEXICO SINCE NAFTA



Why is this important? The Obama administration negotiated an agreement called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) – nicknamed the Iran Deal. Since President Obama did not formalize the agreement as a treaty, with two-thirds of Senate approval, President Trump was able to unilaterally withdraw from the unconstitutional agreement. Under domestic law, the United States government has labeled the JCPOA a non-binding ‘political commitment,’ meaning that it was not enforceable under domestic law (Nelson, 2015; Toubman, 2021). Yoo (2000) writes that “agreements that pose serious limits on the United States’ sovereignty and that make long-lasting military and security commitments, such as peace treaties and alliances, must take the form of treaties.” President Obama also negotiated the Trans-Pacific Partnership as a trade agreement, not a Treaty; hence, it was easily canceled by President Trump shortly after his inauguration (Solís, 2017).

In 1994, President Clinton approved the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA); it increased bilateral trade with Mexico from \$99 billion in 1994 to over \$600 billion in 2021 and increased bilateral trade with Canada from \$242 billion in 1994 to over \$600 billion in 2021 (Figure 3). However, the NAFTA agreement favored the Canadian and Mexican balance of trade. Since NAFTA never achieved treaty status, in 2020, President Trump unilaterally canceled and replaced it with the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (Amadeo, 2022). The lesson not yet learned by the political elites is that important defense and trade agreements should go through Senate ratification.

Part 1c – Rule of Law – Executive Orders

What is an executive order? Heritage (2020) identifies an executive order as a type of written instruction that presidents use, to work their will through the executive branch of government. George Washington had just eight (8) while Franklin D. Roosevelt issued (3721) to push his progressive agenda. Lincoln issued the most significant executive order, called The Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863; however,

slavery was not outlawed until the passage of the 13th Amendment on January 31, 1865, and its ratification on December 6, 1865.

The presidents assessed in this study issued 1408 executive orders during the past 32 years: George H.W. Bush (166), Bill Clinton (364), George W. Bush (291), Barack Obama (276), Donald Trump (220), and Joe Biden (91), so far (APP, 2022). The abuse of presidential authority isn't necessarily based on the total number of directives, but on whether they were illegal or improper (Heritage, 2020). For example, one of the most heinous abuses of power was committed when Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Presidential Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942; this order authorized the forced removal of all persons deemed a threat to national security from the West Coast to 'relocation centers' (a.k.a. internment camps) further inland – resulting in the incarceration of Japanese Americans (Roosevelt, 1942).

Fred Korematsu, 23, was a Japanese American citizen who did not comply with the Executive Order to leave his home and he was subsequently arrested. Eventually, his case went to the Supreme Court asserting that EO 9066 was unconstitutionally based on race. On December 18, 1944, a divided Supreme Court ruled, in a 6-3 decision, that the detention was a military necessity, not based on race. Justice Robert Jackson dissented calling the order “the legalization of racism” that violated the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment (USC, 2021). What can we learn from this? Executive Orders are unconstitutional (e.g., not enumerated) abuses of power that could lead to totalitarianism. The Supreme Court shamefully failed to protect American citizens.

Part 1d – Rule of Law – Enumerated Powers

Enumerated powers are the powers granted to the Federal government, and specifically, Congress, which are mostly listed in Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution. Namely the power “to lay and collect taxes,” duties, impost, and excises, to pay debts, to provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States, to regulate commerce with foreign Nations, to constitute tribunals inferior to the Supreme Court, to raise and maintain armed forces, to declare war, to establish a Post Office, etc. In all, the Constitution delegates 27 powers specifically to the Federal government (LII, 2022). The federal Constitution lists each of the items that Congress is permitted to spend money on. If one reads through the federal Constitution and highlights the powers delegated to Congress and the President, one will have a complete list of what Congress is lawfully authorized to spend money on. The doctrine of enumerated powers, which described the restraint of the U.S. government—was most famously explained by James Madison in the Federalist Papers (No. 45):

“The powers delegated by the proposed Constitution to the federal government, are few and defined. Those which are to remain in the State governments are numerous and indefinite. The former will be exercised principally on external objects, as war, peace, negotiation, and foreign commerce; with which last the power of taxation will, for the most part, be connected. The powers reserved to the several States will extend to all the objects which, in the ordinary course of affairs, concern the lives, liberties, and properties of the people, and the internal order, improvement, and prosperity of the State.” (Madison, et.al., 1787, # 45)

According to the Federalist Papers (1787) and the 9th and 10th Amendments, all rights and responsibilities that are not enumerated for the federal government, belong to either the states or the people. The following departments within the Executive Branch were not created through a Constitutional Amendment and based upon a Federalist interpretation of the U.S. Constitution, do not have enumerated functions:

- Department of Agriculture (USDA) was created in 1862.
- Department of Labor (DOL) was created in 1913.
- Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) was created in 1953.
- Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) was created in 1965.
- Department of Transportation (DOT) was created in 1966.
- Department of Energy (DOE) was created in 1977.
- Department of Education (ED) was created in 1980 (Baker, 2009, p. 15-17).

Part 1e – Rule of Law – So What?

The true size of government is nearing a record high of 9 to 11 million employees (Light, 2020) because the political elites routinely violate the enumerated functions identified in the U.S. Constitution. Section 1, Economics and Finance discussed the annual deficits and cumulative debt. Since 1964, cumulative spending on these seven departments exceeds \$30 trillion; hence, circumventing the Amendment process, has resulted in a lethargic Federal bureaucracy, and bloated, often unnecessary spending resulting in massive federal debt. A proposed amendment must be passed by two-thirds of both houses of Congress, then ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the states – this is intentionally difficult, but it forces legislators to speak with constituents. Medical care is not an enumerated function: Medicare, Medicaid, and the Affordable Care Act never went through the Amendment gauntlet – therefore tax increases and higher insurance premiums needed to keep these programs solvent have never been critically examined and approved by the American taxpayers. If the USG no longer follows and enforces the U.S. Constitution, and hence the rule of law, then why should we expect any other country to follow the domestic or international rule of law?

Part 2: Posse Comitatus

The Posse Comitatus Act is a United States federal law (18 U.S.C. § 1385, original at 20 Stat. 152) signed on June 18, 1878, by President Rutherford B. Hayes; it forbade the use of the U.S. Army, and through it, its offspring, the U.S. Air Force, for law enforcement purposes without the approval of Congress. The limitation does not apply to the National Guard when activated by a state's governor in accordance with Title 32 of the U.S. Code. This is why the National Guard, not the active duty (Title 10) forces are typically used for natural disasters. However, under the Insurrection Act, the President could legally federalize the National Guard and use the regular military in particular circumstances, such as to suppress civil disorder, insurrection, or rebellion. President George H.W. Bush invoked the Insurrection Act, during the 1992 Los Angeles riots; President Trump could have done the same during the riots in Portland, Seattle, and Minneapolis from 2017 to 2021. President Biden could use this power to secure the southern U.S. border – he has chosen not to do his duty. Alternatively, Title 32 allows for federal funding of state-controlled National Guard units to include homeland defense activities that “includes a threat of aggression against the United States” (Nevitt, 2018).

Part 3a: Law Enforcement - Introduction

Law enforcement describes the agencies and employees responsible for enforcing laws, maintaining public order, and managing public safety. The primary duties of law enforcement include the investigation, apprehension, and detention of individuals suspected of criminal offenses (BJS, 2022). The United States system of law enforcement is not centralized. Generally, mayors enforce local laws through the police; most counties elect a sheriff, who is responsible for keeping the peace and enforcing the law, and is accountable directly to the citizens of their county; each state governor typically has state troopers and state bureaus of investigation to enforce state statutes; finally, the Federal Government has multiple law enforcement agencies including the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), Immigrations & Customs Enforcement (ICE), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco Firearms & Explosives (ATF), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), U.S. Secret Service, U.S. Marshall Service; and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG). Federal agencies have jurisdiction in all states, U.S. territories, and U.S. possessions for enforcement of *federal* law. However, we must be clear, a police officer in a city typically works for the mayor, not the president of the United States; so, claiming that the President of the United States is the “*Chief Law Enforcement officer*” is misleading, e.g., the killing of a person in any city by a police officer is the responsibility of that Mayor and Chief of Police, not the U.S. President.

FIGURE 4
FOUR LEVELS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

President	State Governor	County Sheriff	City Mayor
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Homeland Security (DHS) • Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) • Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) • Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) • Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco Firearms & Explosives (ATF) • US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) • US Secret Service, • US Marshall Service • US Coast Guard (USCG) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State police officers • State Troopers • Highway patrol officers • Corrections Officers • Bureaus of Investigation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County police officers • Deputies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City police officers • Deputies

Recent protests (2019-2022) against the police have been illogical, in part due to the protestors’ lack of understanding of what law enforcement is tasked to do, how it is organized, and who is in charge. For instance, if a criminal in Minneapolis dies during police apprehension, this is normally an issue for the Mayor, Chief of Police, and arresting police officer; it is not typically a President, Attorney General, or Federal LEA issue. However, law enforcement is truly a whole-of-government process at both Federal as well as State levels:

- The legislative branch makes laws.
- The executive branch enforces laws through LEAs.
- The judicial branch determines whether laws are constitutional; and that people are prosecuted.

The U.S. Attorneys and all federal prosecutors are part of the Executive Branch, whereas the judges and members of the Courts are part of the Judicial Branch. This separation of powers refers to the division of a government into branches, each with separate, independent powers, and responsibilities so that the powers of one branch do not in conflict with those of the other branches. In addition, Federalism is a system of government in which the same territory is controlled by more than one level of government. Generally, the Federal government is responsible for broader governance of larger territorial areas, while the smaller subdivisions, states, and cities govern the issues of local concern.

The concept of Federalism ensured that the U.S. Government did not become more powerful than the states that created it, and the concept of separation of powers ensured that the president did not become a dictator. Unfortunately, these concepts have not been as pure in practice as they are in theory. For instance, executive orders make the president seemingly act like the legislative branch; Congressional hearings seemingly make the House into a Judiciary, and Judicial activism has resulted in legislating from the bench, thereby muddying the separation of powers. Many violations of the 9th and 10th Amendments such as over-taxation for functions that are not enumerated in the U.S. Constitution have blurred the separation between Federal, State, and Local as well.

The term Fourth Estate refers to the press and news media both in the explicit capacity of advocacy and implicit ability to frame political issues. The press, in the past, had always remained independent, and fiercely loyal to the common working man and woman. That has shifted in recent years to a press that believes in “advocacy journalism” rather than a press that adopts a non-objective viewpoint, usually for some social or political purpose. The American press, or mainstream media (MSM) has gaslighted the American citizens for decades about many topics that will be discussed in the next sections.

Part 3b: Law Enforcement and Mainstream Media Propaganda

The Center for Public Integrity (CPI) identified that 96% of the press are democrat supporters, which shapes the news based on the reporters' and editors' political leanings (Levinthal, et.al., 2016). The mainstream media (MSM) commits both acts of omission and commission: acts of commission occur when media over-report or falsify acts of violence and racism—acts of omission occur when the press does not report relevant information. Hence, the following incidents were not evenly covered due to media acts of omission and commission:

- In 1992, President George H.W. Bush responded to a request from Gov. Pete Wilson of California to help quell rioting in Los Angeles after the acquittal of the four LAPD officers who beat Rodney King, who had resisted arrest; there was a lot of MSM reporting on police brutality, but almost nil on the rioters who killed more than 60 people, injured almost 2,000, and caused nearly \$1 billion in property damage, including the burnings of over 3,000 buildings. (History, 1992a). MSM did not report that most of the burned and looted stores were owned by Korean-Americans, even though the Korean business owners had nothing to do with the cause of that riot, slavery, or any other black disparity (Sowell, 2019, p. 207).
- In 1992, Clinton authorized the Ruby Ridge operation to apprehend and arrest Randy Weaver; under a bench warrant after his failure to appear on firearms charges. An FBI sharpshooter wounded Randy Weaver and Kevin Harris and then killed Weaver's wife, Vicki; his son, Sammy Weaver and his dog were also shot and killed. The Federal murderers were never held accountable (History, 1992b).
- In 1993, Clinton's Attorney General Janet Reno authorized the Waco assault, which was the law enforcement siege of the compound that belonged to the Branch Davidian religious sect. It was carried out by the U.S. federal LEA, Texas state LEA, and the U.S. military, between February and April 1993. The massacre resulted in the deaths of 76 Branch Davidians, including 25 children, two pregnant women, and their religious leader David Koresh. Clinton, his Attorney General, Janet Reno, and the Federal LEA were not held accountable for this mass murder of U.S. citizens (Suprynowicz, 1999; History, 2017).
- Under George W. Bush, Jose Padilla was jailed as he was suspected of being associated with al-Qaeda and planning terrorist attacks in the United States. The executive branch of the Bush administration arrested this American citizen without charging him with a crime; held him in a naval brig in South Carolina for 3 ½ years; denied him access to a lawyer; and prohibited any contact with his friends and family. The Second Circuit Court wrote "the President does not have the power under Article II of the Constitution to detain as an enemy combatant an American citizen seized on American soil outside a zone of combat" (Baker, 2009, p. 28).
- In June 2013, per Wiki-leaks release of top-secret documents revealed that the Obama administration's National Security Agency (NSA) was responsible for the mass collection of information on American and foreign citizens, as well as members of the press (Reilly, 2003). The Obama administration assisted in the launch of the Russia Hoax and illegal investigation of Trump (Jarrett, 2016). And Obama used the "1917 Espionage Act with unprecedented vigor, prosecuting more people under that law for leaking sensitive information to the public than all previous administrations combined" (Woodward, et.al., 2018). Obama was the president who promoted the idea that America was a systemically racist country, even though he had been elected twice to the highest office (Tate, 2021, p. 38).
- On July 2, 2020, insurgents shattered a front window and tried to gain entry inside a Federal courthouse; Mayor Wheeler ordered local police not to assist, and was therefore an accomplice. President Trump legally deployed federal forces to protect federal property. Media called Federal LEA "Trump's Gestapo, storm troopers, and thugs," and as useful idiots for Antifa insurgents, "the press predictably published reports that helped provoke more hatred for law enforcement in Portland" (Ngo, 2021. p. 69-71).
- The January 6, 2021 riot occurred in the waning hours of the Trump administration allegedly due to a stolen election. Biden's Department of Justice did not conduct a widespread

investigation into allegations of voter fraud during the 2020 presidential election, despite issuing a statement indicating they would investigate any such claims. Biden supported false claims of an insurrection by members of Congress, even though there were no protestors or rioters with pistols, rifles, or explosives inside or immediately outside of the capitol. So, the riot was despicable, but it does not rise to the U.S. Title 18 U.S. Code, §2331 definition of domestic terrorism and protestors were imprisoned for mere trespassing (Baker, 2023).

In summary, the MSM picks and chooses which stories they support or reject rather than reporting facts to the American people. In the next section, we show that the MSM has added gasoline to the insurgent fires burning across the country. Rather than reporting honestly, they taint the news stories with false notions of racism, white supremacy, and police brutality. The idea that White police officers are engaged in genocide against Black men is a falsehood promoted by many in the media, academia, as well as sports, and entertainment (Tate, 2021, p. 81; Baker, 2023). Research proved that critical race advocates have damaged race relations in America by creating false and misleading narratives (Baker, 2022). No actual hate crimes or open discrimination are required... since the woke crowd, including “woke MSM” believes that the entire U.S. system is racist, therefore all White people benefit and all Black people do not – so, if you are White, you’re a racist (Hanson, 2020).

The first racist narrative carried on every MSM network was the tragic death of Trayvon Martin, a young Black adult on Feb. 26, 2012. George Zimmerman identified as a Hispanic-American, a Democrat, and an Obama supporter “with many black relatives and friends” (Gamboa, 2012; Sheets, 2012). Zimmerman shot Martin claiming self-defense; he was charged with second-degree murder and was acquitted of all charges. SPIN: The MSM painted this as an offensive White-on-Black, right-wing murder of a child, not a defensive Hispanic-on-Black killing of a young adult. Police were not involved in this tragedy, but hashtag #BlackLivesMatter was first created and used following the acquittal (History, 2021). The Black Lives Matter Organization (BLM-O) would be a leading radical group calling for the abolition of the police in subsequent years. The following six incidents also gained national attention from the MSM.

**FIGURE 5
PROPAGANDA ABOUT WHITE COPS “HUNTING” BLACKS**

Name	Date + Offense	Outcome
ERIC GARNER, New York City	July 17, 2014: selling untaxed cigarettes	On December 3, 2014, the grand jury assigned to the case did not bring charges against the two officers (USDOJ, 2015a; Schwartz, 2021, p 54)
MICHAEL BROWN, Fergusson, MO	Aug 9, 2014: Brown assaulted a police officer and tried to seize his weapon	The FBI opened a federal criminal civil rights investigation on August 11, 2014. In November 2014, a grand jury declined to indict; the Justice Department concluded that he acted out of self-defense. (USDOJ, 2015b, p.5).
TAMIR RICE, Cleveland, Ohio	Nov. 22, 2014, kept pointing a gun at people	Killed as a result of tragic circumstances and the unfortunate choice to aim a realistic toy gun at strangers in public. Schwartz, 2021, p. 66
ERIC LOGAN, South Bend, IN	June 16, 2019: broke into cars; and threatened a police officer with knife	Police officer exonerated due to imminent threat to his safety
BREONNA TAYLOR, Louisville, KY	March 13, 2020, no-knock warrant related to drug offenses	September 20, 2020, Kentucky Attorney General decided not to indict the involved officers with murder Schwartz, 2021, p. 73
GEORGE FLOYD, Minneapolis, MN	On 25 May 2020: Floyd had used a counterfeit \$20 bill; then resisted arrest	Officer Chauvin was arrested on May 29, 2020 for second-degree and third-degree murder & second-degree manslaughter. On April 20, 2021 a jury found Chauvin guilty of all charges.

History, 2014; History, 2020; History, 2021; Schwartz, 2021, pp. 55-78.

According to medical authorities, Eric Garner's death resulted from compression of the neck and chest, and prone positioning during restraint by police; however, asthma, heart disease, and morbid obesity were contributing factors (Goldstein, 2014) Although the Obama administration initiated a case under AG Holder, the U.S. Department of Justice declined to bring criminal charges against Officer Pantaleo under federal civil rights laws since there was no evidence that this was racially motivated. (Schwartz, 2021, p. 54). Nonetheless, the MSM narrative: "I can't breathe," became a national rallying cry that was not supported by facts.

On August 9, 2014, Officer Darren Wilson of the Ferguson Police Department shot and killed Michael Brown a Black teenager, in Ferguson, Missouri. Witnesses testified that Brown was assaulting the police officer and attempted to take his pistol. On November 24, 2014, the St. Louis County grand jury decided not to indict Wilson, since witnesses and forensic evidence supported his testimony. Obama's Department of Justice also cleared Wilson of civil rights violations in the shooting (Mohr, et.al., 2015), finding there was no racial animosity (USDOJ, 2015, p.5; Schwartz, 2021, p. 63). However, the invented MSM narrative, "*Hands up, don't shoot*" is a false chant that is still being repeated today.

The saddest incident involved Tamir E. Rice, a 12-year-old African-American boy, who was killed in Cleveland, Ohio, by a white police officer, after brandishing a realistic-looking toy gun. Officers ordered the child to show his hands, instead, it appeared that the boy was drawing his gun, so he was shot and killed on November 22, 2014. A Cuyahoga County grand jury declined to bring criminal charges against Loehmann and Garmback after a series of experts hired by his office deemed the shooting was "objectively reasonable" (Ferrise, 2018). The Justice Department under both Trump and Biden found no evidence to support federal criminal charges, since "an officer is permitted to use deadly force where he reasonably believes that the suspect posed an imminent threat of serious physical harm" (Doj, 2020). There was no evidence to suggest that Tamir Rice's death was racially motivated (Schwartz, 2021, p. 66). The MSM Narrative was that "racism" killed Tamir Rice (Atassi, 2019), which was simply not true.

Eric Logan was breaking into cars, and when confronted by a police officer, he threatened that officer with a hunting knife. A civil rights lawsuit was filed against former South Bend police officer Ryan O'Neill and the city of South Bend by Logan's family in 2019. A federal judge dismissed the lawsuit in the shooting death of Eric Logan because he posed a "deadly threat," and the officer "reasonably" used his gun (WNDU, 2021). MSM Narrative: excessive force and racial discrimination. Not true! All evidence shows that Logan died as a direct result of his own actions, not racism (Schwartz, 2021, p. 81).

On March 13, 2020, Breonna Taylor, a 26-year-old African-American woman, was fatally shot in her Louisville, Kentucky apartment as part of an investigation into drug dealing operations. Plainclothes officers knocked on the door and then forced entry; Taylor's boyfriend, Kenneth Walker, shot at the police, and police returned fire, killing Breonna Taylor. Walker was charged with assault and attempted murder of a police officer, but his charges were dismissed (WDRB, 2020). Former Sen. Kamala Harris demanded federal investigators examine the death of Breonna Taylor (Duvall, et.al., 2020). The police were charged, but on September 20, 2020, Kentucky Attorney General decided not to indict the involved officers with murder, stating "In our system, criminal justice isn't the quest for revenge. It's the quest for truth, evidence, and facts, and the use of that truth as we fairly apply our laws" (Schwartz, 2021, p. 73). A jury found Brett Hankison not guilty of wanton conduct (Cohen, 2020; Osborne, 2022). One again the MSM's narrative of white racism and intentional killing was not supported by facts (Schwartz, 2021, p. 72). Sadly, MSM acts as if none of these victims had free will – yet most would be alive today if they followed instructions from the arresting officers.

George Floyd's death on May 25, 2020, in the custody of Minneapolis police officers ignited an already volatile anti-police political climate set in place by the recent death of Taylor. After Floyd resisted arrest, Derek Chauvin, one of four police officers who arrived on the scene, knelt on Floyd's neck and back for 9 minutes and 29 seconds. Chauvin was convicted on two counts of murder and one count of manslaughter on April 20, 2021 (Hayes, 2021). The MSM's narrative of white racism fueled violent protests but was unsupported by the fact that the arresting officers included multiple races: Officers Tou Thao (Asian), Thomas Lane (White), and J. Alexander Kueng (Black) was also found guilty of violating Floyd's civil rights (Melendez, 2022). Some activists were elated at the conviction of Chauvin. Antifa groups and others

on social media amplified false narratives and outright lies (Ngo, 2021, p. 18). Many other people saw this as an unfortunate death that was caused by excessive use of force, as well as the victim's use of fentanyl compounded by preexisting cardiac issues. U.S. District Judge Paul Magnuson opined that "there is absolutely nothing about the subject of religion, race or ethnicity that's involved in this case" (Forliti, 2022), it was a civil rights case. However, Kimball (2021) wrote, "The ritual the convicted Minneapolis police officer was subjected to was less a legal trial than a sort of pagan sacrifice." The City of Minneapolis settled a wrongful death lawsuit with Floyd's family for \$27 million.

The key take-aways from this section is that these high-visibility deaths in the national media were treated as if white, racist cops were hunting down innocent black lives: fake news! That is slander and defamation – while all these cases sadly ended up in death, none of these deaths were due to racial animus. In 2016, Tony Timpa, a white man, died after a police officer knelt on his neck for 14 minutes yet there were no national protests, riots, or burning of businesses (Hannity, 2020; Schwartz, 2021). No criminal charges have been filed, but in 2021, a judge ruled that a wrongful death lawsuit filed by Timpa's family had merit and can go to trial. But Tony Timpa's death does not fit the MSM's narrative. Similarly, Ashli Babbitt, a white woman, was a protestor at the January 6th 2021 riot in the Capitol, when Capitol Police Officer Michael Byrd shot and killed Ashli Babbitt even though she was unarmed. Unlike officers Chauvin, Thao, Lane, and Kueng who have been jailed, the Capitol Police Officer Byrd has not been charged with murder, manslaughter, or excessive use of force. No police were killed during the January 6th riot (McCarthy, 2022), but this does not fit the MSM's gaslighting narrative either.

Survey data indicated that 54% of very liberal Americans thought that more than 1,000 unarmed black men were killed by police in 2019 (McCaffree, et.al., 2021); in reality during 2019, police shot and killed a total of 12 unarmed Black men and 26 White men (Washington Post, 2019). The BLM narrative was false: the number of unarmed White men killed by police is higher than that of Blacks both in number and by percentage as it relates to crimes committed (WaPo, 2019; Tate, 2021). There has not been a massive increase in police shootings, yet two hundred law enforcement officers died in the line of duty in 2020, which was up 90 percent (USHR, 2020). Jackman (2016) reported on a study conducted by researchers at the University of Chicago, which found that police officers in the United States were three times more likely to be shot by someone than to kill someone in the line of duty – once again BLM/ANTIFA/MSM narrative is hyperbole (Baker, 2023).

Contrary to corporate media narratives, up to 95 percent of the 2020 riots were linked to Black Lives Matter activism, according to data collected by the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project. (USHR, 2020) and of the 633 coded as riots, 88 percent are recorded as involving Black Lives Matter activists (Pullman, 2020; USHR, 2020). It is no wonder that the rioters wanted to end the police! One irony of the 2020 BLM/Antifa chants to "end the police" is that the Chiefs of Police in the hardest-hit cities were all black: Medaria Arradondo was the first black chief of the Minneapolis Police Department, Carmen Best was the first black woman to lead Seattle's police force, and Chuck Lovell was the fourth African American police chief in Portland – yet the MSM was silent.

Similarly, the MSM did not report that in 2015, when Baltimore burned over the death of Freddie Gray, a black man, due to alleged police racism, the key people in the arrest were all black: the arresting Sergeant, Police Commissioner, the Baltimore City State's Attorney and Mayor, as well as the U.S. Attorney General and U.S. President (Baker, 2022). Police officers of any hue are not systematically targeting and hunting down Black Americans, nor is there systemic, overt racism, or implicit racial bias as claimed by BLM-O (Fryer, 2018; Tate, 2021; Baker, 2022). The greatest problem in the black community is the tolerance for high levels of criminality (Williams, 2011), not white supremacy.

Part 3c: Law Enforcement and A Needed National Counter-Narrative

A national dialogue on law enforcement is needed, but it is not likely to occur in the current political environment. The separation of powers ensures a division between the executive, legislative and judicial branches at the Federal and State levels; while the concept of federalism separates law enforcement into four levels: city, county, state, and federal agencies. These much-needed divisions ensure that the United

States does not become a totalitarian dictatorship. But these divisions also create a degree of disfunction among law enforcement agencies as well.

FIGURE 6
BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS, NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMIZATION SURVEY

Race of Victim	Average annual victimizations	RACE OF OFFENDER (numerical)			RACE OF OFFENDER (as % of population)		
		White	Black	Hispanic	White	Black	Hispanic
Total violence	6,484,507	2,781,854	1,452,530	959,707	0.013597	0.036680	0.014541
White	4,091,971	2,291,504	560,600	486,945	0.011200	0.014157	0.007378
Black	955,800	99,403	594,508	44,923	0.000486	0.015013	0.000681
Hispanic	995,996	216,131	211,151	384,454	0.001056	0.005332	0.005825
Asian + Other	440,741	177,619	85,063	46,719	0.000868	0.002148	0.000708

Based on this chart, when adjusted for size of population, black on white violence is 29 times higher than vice versa. In addition, Black on Hispanic violence is 8 times higher than vice versa.

SOURCE: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2012-2013, Special Tabulation

American citizens need our politicians to commit to integrity in public service, rather than political posturing 24/7 as currently exists. Free speech is essential in our Constitutional Republic, but there should be substantial repercussions for lies, slander, and defamation committed by politicians and the media. There appears to be unethical collusion between some politicians, law enforcement agencies, academia (specifically the social sciences), and the media. For instance, Delgado (2017) wrote that “police shootings and killings of unarmed black men have risen so rapidly that even a leading medical journal recognizes them as growing health concerns” (Delgado, 2017, p. 124). This is total propaganda (Tate, 2021; Baker, 2022). CRT theorist Delgado’s “racism is everything” narrative is not plausible. Tate (2021) writes that the “root causes of problems in the Black community that rarely receive meaningful discussion by mainstream academia, media, or politics. Instead, the conversation has been dumbed down to the two most popular scapegoats: systemic racism and white supremacy” (Tate, 2021, p. 43). This researcher concurs.

In 2022, President Biden claimed, “Domestic terrorism from white supremacists is the most lethal terrorist threat in the homeland” (Bloomberg, 2022). And on Tuesday, 9 April 2019, Representative Jerrold Nadler hosted a House Hearing entitled “Hate Crimes and the Rise of White Nationalism” that was filled with fearmongering propaganda. However, the data from the Department of Justice and FBI do not support Biden or Nadler’s bigoted hypothesis (FBI, 2019). The chart in Figure 6, shows National Crime victimization as divided by population. Nadler talks about 79 deaths attributed to White nationalist movements over 9 years (averages less than 9 deaths per year); in contrast, the City of Chicago experienced 104 people shot, with 19 dead in just one weekend, and had over 2,000 shootings in 2021, which were *not* due to white nationalists (Kenney, et.al., 2021).

- Whites comprise 62% of the population, but White-on-White crime is 56% of incidents.
- Blacks comprise 12% of the population, but Black-on-Black crime is 62.2% of incidents.
- Blacks comprise 12% of the population, but Black-on-Asian crime is 27% of incidents.
- Asians comprise 6% of the population, but Asian-on-Asian crime is 24% of incidents.
- Whites comprise 62% of the population, but White-on-Asian crime is 24% of incidents.

Numerically, the number of Black-on-White victims is almost equal to the number of Black-on-Black victims. The true picture of Crime Victimization in the United States is achieved by dividing the numbers of incidents by the size of the population related to the perpetrator, [e.g., Black-on-White crime is expressed as $560,600/39600000=0.014156566$ thereby adjusting for the size of the population]. Per Figure 6, when adjusted for the size of the population, Black-on-White violence is 29 times higher than White-on-Black

violence; in addition, Black-on-Hispanic violence is eight times greater than vice versa. In comparison, the number of cop-killings is minuscule (Baker, 2023).

Other researchers have similar findings; Williams (2011) wrote, “The greatest problem in the black community is the tolerance for high levels of criminality ... for the crime of homicide, over the years 1976-2000, blacks, while 13 percent of the general population, made up 51.5 percent of the offenders; whites were 46.4 percent, and others 2 percent”; Kendi (2019) cited, “A study that used National Longitudinal Survey of Youth data from 1976 to 1989 found that young Black males engaged in more violent crime than young White males” (Kendi, 2019, p. 79); Tate (2021) wrote, “According to the 2018 FBI crime data, Black Americans made up 53 percent of homicide offenders and committed about 60 percent of the robberies, despite being only 13 percent of the population” (Tate, 2021, p. 81).

The national discussion on mass killings is also based upon lies by the political elites and their “woke” confederates. Mother Jones (2022) U.S. Mass Shootings, 1982–2022 data reveals that the greatest number of mass shooters, when compared to the population size, are Arabic-Muslims, Black-Americans, and Native American males, between 21 and 29 years of age, typically at work, and *not* in a school. In summary, Biden’s claim that “Domestic terrorism from white supremacists is the most lethal terrorist threat in the homeland” is a pathetic lie (Baker, 2023).

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

***Research Question 1:** What is the current DIMEFIL assessment of the United States? To answer this research question, we grouped like-concepts that are summarized in the next four sections and the chart in Figure 7.*

Section 1: Economics and Finance

Fiscal irresponsibility has existed as long as politicians have existed. However, the problem of fiscal solvency has become a question of national survival during the administrations of the past modern presidents increasing Federal Debt from 2.8 trillion in 1989 to over \$30 trillion in 2022. Fiscal irresponsibility seems to be part of every administration. None of the six presidents attempted to fix Social Security, Medicare, or Medicaid; and the Affordable Care Act did not save families money: it was unaffordable – doubling costs for most families.

Section 2: Information and Intelligence

Hitler (1933) created the concept known as the Big Lie, which has come to mean, if you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it. The concept of the “Big Lie” is now a part of every American political elite’s playbook. Donald Trump was the target of a domestic information operation by Hillary Clinton, Barak Obama, and the Democratic National Committee (DNC) using a fake dossier, that led to spying on Trump and his campaign via four Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) warrants beginning in 2014, but they found no evidence. No one of significance has been prosecuted for the fake Russia collusion story. The DNC and Hillary’s campaign conducted a highly successful psychological operations (PSYOPS) campaign that cost American taxpayers \$32 million, and the Chinese were learning how to disrupt U.S. politicians. The U.S. now has two justice systems: one for the rich and another for everybody else (Telfeyan, 2022).

Hillary Clinton’s use of a private server violated multiple statutes: 18 U.S. Code 641, 18 USC 2017(b), 18 USC 1001, 18 USC 1505 and 1515(b), 18 USC 793(d, e, f), and 18 USC 1924(a). Of note: Title 18 USC 793(f) of the Espionage Act governs her negligence. Although the FBI assessed that “hostile actors gained access ... her personal account” (Arter, 2016; Jarrett, 2019), she has gone unpunished for her violations of U.S. Statute (Cheng, 2011; Singh, 2013; Bergman, 2022).

Section 3: Diplomacy and Defense

Chinese philosopher, Sun Tzu (2011) wrote that “the supreme art of war is to subdue the enemy without fighting”; however, American presidents have traditionally done the exact opposite using gunboat

diplomacy on a regular basis. Excluding Trump, each president discussed has squandered the blood and treasure of American society. Osama bin Laden published his “*Declaration of War against the Americans occupying the Land of the Two Holy Places*,” on August 23, 1996 (OBL, 1996), and followed with a FATWA in 1998. Failure to act in 1998 resulted in the 9/11 attacks, a twenty-year war in Afghanistan, and a withdrawal in 2021, by a President, Secretary of Defense, and Chairman, of the Joint Chiefs of Staff that could be described as cowardly and incompetent.

Section 4: Law Enforcement & the Rule of Law

U.S. doctrine states that through the law enforcement instrument of national power, the USG is accountable to its people and can govern its territory effectively; but in practice, it doesn't. The ‘Rule of Law’ appears to be optional in the Biden administration, especially regarding illegal immigration and open borders. We now have political leaders who pick and choose which laws they support without fear of impeachment.

The doctrine of enumerated powers, which described the restraint of the U.S. government—was most famously stated in the Federalist Papers #45 (1787) and the 9th and 10th Amendments, in that all rights and responsibilities that are not enumerated for the federal government, belong to either the states or the people. The Federal government appears to have abandoned restrictions based upon enumerated powers.

The American press has gaslighted the American citizens for decades, at times willingly, and at times out of ignorance. For instance, in 2018, journalists from The New York Times and The Washington Post won a Pulitzer Prize for Russia's alleged collaboration with the Trump campaign (von Spakovsky, 2021). The Times has not returned the award even though the Mueller report stated the “investigation did not find that the Trump campaign or anyone associated with it conspired or coordinated with Russia” (Mueller, 2019).

In collusion with political elites, the mainstream media (MSM) commits acts of commission when media over-report or falsify acts of violence and racism; while acts of omission occur when the press does not report relevant information. The deaths of Trayvon Martin, Freddy Grey, Eric Garner, Tamir Rice, Eric Logan, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd were all sad and unfortunate events. But there were no findings of racial animus in any of these cases. Like George Floyd, a white man named Tony Timpa died after a police officer kneeled on his neck, however there were no national protests, riots, or burning of businesses (Hannity, 2020; Schwartz, 2021). In addition to fueling false messages of white supremacy, there was very little MSM reporting on individual decisions and/or resisting arrest that led up to their eventual demise.

Figure 7 shows that an internal threat to the United States is not white supremacy as propagated by Joe Biden, but U.S. political leaders' arrogance and stupidity, as expressed in poor management, bad policies, and often incompetent and unconstitutional practices. Yet, in 2022, President Biden claimed, “Domestic terrorism from white supremacists is the most lethal terrorist threat in the homeland” (Bloomberg, 2022). This research has decisively dismantled Biden's pathetic lie. When adjusted for the size of the population, Black-on-White violence is 29 times higher than White-on-Black violence; in addition, Black-on-Hispanic violence is eight times greater than vice versa (Baker, 2023). Death by cop is always regrettable, but in comparison to murders and violent incidents by Blacks, the number of cop killings is minuscule (e.g., in 2019, there were 26 unarmed whites and 12 unarmed Blacks killed by police – whereas there are over 2400 Black-on-Black murders every year. Do black lives really matter? They should! Bui and Cox (2016) analyzed data on police shootings from the United States, gathered by The Washington Post, and concluded that there was no significant evidence of racial bias in police shootings. Terrorist threat assessments are based upon both words and deeds – so, if we look at domestic violence incidents as in this research, then white violence and white supremacy are the figments of an octogenarian's imagination supported by a politicized Intelligence Community (Baker, 2023). Biden lied and continues to do so.

**FIGURE 7
SUMMARY OF NIOA ANALYSIS**

	Defense & Diplomacy	Economy & Finance	Information & Intelligence	Law Enforcement
G.H.W. Bush, 1989 to 1993	Invasion of Panama (1989); Iraq War (2001) supported a King/Emir over a tyrant	Start Debt: \$2.87 trillion End Debt: \$ \$4.35 trillion Debt Increase: 52% Average Deficit: 370 billion/yr	- Read My Lips, No New Taxes -Disinformation about invasion of Panama - Education not enumerated	+ Response to the 1992 Los Angeles Riots
Clinton, 1993 to 2001	Iraq (1993-), Bosnia (1993-1996), Somalia (1992-1994)- "Black Hawk Down"; OBL attack Embassies & USS Cole	Start Debt: \$4.35 trillion End Debt: \$ \$5.77 trillion Debt Increase: 33% Average Deficit: \$177 billion per year	- Disinformation about illegal affair and lying under oath -Failed to attack al-Qaeda despite 1996 Declaration of War & 1998 FATWA: led to 9/11	- Treated al-Qaeda attacks on U.S. embassies in Tanzania & Kenya, as mere LEA issues - 1993 Waco Massacre of U.S. citizens (men, women, children)
G. Bush, 2001 to 2009	"War on Terror" operations in Afghanistan (2001); Mindanao, P.I. (2002); Iraq (2003)	Start Debt: \$5.77 trillion and End Debt \$11.8 trillion Debt Increase: 106% Average Deficit: 763 billion/yr	- USAPATRIOT ACT harmed US constitutional protections - Lies about Saddam Hussein+ Iraqi ties to terrorism + WMD	-USA PATRIOT ACT sneak & peak searches vs US citizens - Suspend Habeas Corpus - GITMO
Obama, 2009 to 2017	Yemen (2010); ISIS in Yemen (2011); Somalia (2011); Uganda (2011) Syrian Civil War (2012); Turkey (2012); Mali (2013); Somalia (2013); Somalia and Libya (2013); Uganda (2014); Iraqi and Kurdish fighters (2014); Islamic State of Iraq & Syria (ISIS), a.k.a. Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) (2014); Syria (2014); al-Qaeda, al-Nusra Front and Khorasan positions (2014); al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) (2014); Consulate in Benghazi, Libya on 9/11/12	Start Debt: \$11.88 trillion End Debt: \$ \$20.20 trillion Average Deficit \$1+ trillion/yr The Affordable Care Act (aka Obamacare) was not affordable. "If you like your health care plan, you'll be able to keep your health care plan" was tied directly to Obama false promise "the average family is saving \$2,400 a year on their premiums" Fake News the health care cost to families doubled. Obama allegiance to health care companies, not American citizens.	- Supported spying &the Russia collusion hoax against Trump - USAPATRIOT Act renewal which decreased constitutional protections for all citizens; NSA spying on journalists; NSA spying on US Citizens; disinformation on TEA Party; disinformation on white supremacy & crime data; disinformation campaign about Benghazi consulate attack being a protest about a video; the first to promote CRT idea that U.S. is a systemically racist country - major setback in race relations. Assisted Russia collusion hoax.	-Poor national dialogue on race: -Trayvon Martin, 2012 -Michael Brown, 2014 -Tamir Rice, 2014 -Freddie Gray, 2015 Deaths of black citizens during Obama's term resulted in violent protests as a <u>norm</u> , against 'alleged' white terror, that is not supported by BJS crime data. Obama damaged race relations by approving 2013 National Threat Assessment for Domestic Extremism that <u>falsely</u> identified whites as a major threat without any reference to Islamist terror threats
Trump, 2017 to 2021	Destroyed ISIS (2017); No new conflicts; Peace Treaty with UAE & Israel; nominated for Nobel Peace Prize	Start Debt: \$20.2 trillion End Debt: \$ \$28.4 trillion Debt Increase: 41% Average Deficit: 2.1 trillion/yr Increase economy for all hues	- Object of PSYOP campaign by H. Clinton, DNC & MSM - Massive MSM campaign to slander and defame POTUS -Very blunt, perceived as mean	+ Strong support of LEA + Support of B order Control -Limited response to Antifa & BLM riots - \$2 billion damage; lack of response ICW Mayors
Biden, 2021 to present	Shameful loss+withdrawal from Afghanistan (2021); failed diplomacy with Ukraine-Russia (2022); depleting Oil Reserve	Start Debt: \$28.4 trillion End Debt: \$31.6 after 2 yrs MMT debt & inflation do not look promising for citizens	Biden propagated, "Domestic terrorism from white supremacists is the most lethal terrorist threat in the homeland." When adjusted for population size, Black-on-White violence is 29 times higher than vice versa. J6 political prisoners & PSYOP propaganda.	

Synchronization?

Synchronization among the various federal departments' national instruments of power (NIOPs) do not appear to exist for the benefit of the American people. There are overlaps in functions, however, as compared to a Project Management Plan (PMP), there is only ad hoc coordination, rather than true synchronization occurring at the highest levels (Baker, 2020).

The status of "superpower" is immensely dependent upon economics and finance. A strong U.S. economy determines the size and capability of U.S. military forces. It is because of a superior, world-class economy that the United States has been able to build aircraft carriers, battle groups, fighters & transportation aircraft, tanks, armored fighting vehicles, and amphibious vehicles, as well as the world's

most outstanding military satellite system. Unfortunately, much of the U.S. manufacturing has been outsourced to foreign countries, and the globalist agenda has harmed American blue-collar workers, especially in manufacturing sectors.

Taxes collected from the massive U.S. economy have enabled social programs, such as Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, as well as “welfare” programs – yet they are all on the brink of insolvency. A strong economy enables economic and military foreign aid (a.k.a. welfare for other countries), which has been a cornerstone of American diplomacy since 1945. In addition, the economy pays for our law enforcement agencies at the city, county, state, and federal levels, with the expectation that these agencies will serve and protect the people and the businesses who pay their salaries. But, in many jurisdictions with “woke” District Attorneys, this is no longer occurring. Citizens have begun a great awakening, by voting against a progressive District Attorney, Chesa Boudin, who facilitated a massive crime wave via untested and incompetent albeit “woke” progressive policies, such as eliminating cash bail and reducing the number of people sent to prison (Fuller, 2022).

Reliable information and intelligence are essential for accurate decision-making, and a strong and independent American media is crucial in this regard. Unfortunately, mainstream media has become increasingly biased and opinion-driven, prioritizing advocacy journalism over fact-based reporting. The term “fake news,” popularized by Mr. Trump, is now present in every corner of the United States, affecting the economy, military, and law enforcement. Video footage of the January 6th riot showed that protestors were mostly peaceful, despite the propagandist portrayal by Biden, Pelosi, and many media outlets as violent terrorists (Carlson, 2023). The January 6th Commission’s reporting was also misleading and further degraded citizen confidence in U.S. elected officials. It is crucial to have a media that can provide fair and objective coverage to ensure informed decision-making.

Fake news regarding Russia collusion damaged the Trump presidency and cost Americans \$32 million for the investigation. The ‘military problem-solving process’ taught in War College states that one must first accurately define the problem, prior to finding a solution. So, fake news regarding “white supremacy” diverts attention away from the overwhelming amount of violence committed by Black males against Blacks, Asians, Whites, and Hispanics. In addition, the greatest number of mass shooters, when adjusted for U.S. population size, are Arabic-Muslims, Black-Americans, and Native American males, between 21 and 29 years of age, typically at work, and not in a school, and not white supremacists! Very simply, Biden lied.

CONCLUSIONS

Research Question 2: What policies or practices led to the U.S. fall from superpower status? A detailed review of the four previous sections helps answer the second research question.

The American political elites pursued many spending programs without seeking constitutional amendments and therefore did not have constituents’ buy-in for many social welfare and other spending programs. Starting with President Johnson, the political elites raided the social security fund for unconstitutional spending, and as a result, the U.S. now has unfunded obligations that exceed \$100 trillion. None of the presidents from 1989 to the present have addressed how to fix unfunded liabilities related to Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. Therefore, without a significant increase in taxes, or a major decrease in benefits, these programs will fail to achieve their stated goals. So, ending the United States’ status as an economic superpower has been an iterative, longitudinal process stretching across multiple Presidential administrations.

In Orwellian fashion, the American elites have kept the country in a constant state of conflict: the war against drugs, the war against crime, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Panama, North Korea, al Qaeda, ISIS/ISIL, Boko Haram, COVID-19 lockdowns, and now Ukraine-Russian War. These conflicts, fueled by misinformation, have kept the American people in a constant state of fear, and not every crisis was pertinent to U.S. national interests. Propaganda from the U.S. political elites has always preceded each engagement

or deployment and the MSM has reflexively supported their political masters, rather than the American people.

Spending since 2001 has included the housing crisis, bank bailouts, poor accountability, and ‘missing’ money that was allocated to both domestic bailouts and foreign aid. Since 2009, it has also included \$1 trillion deficits, and as of 2012, a national debt that exceeds the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). As a final knife to the economy’s abdomen, the forced shut-down of small businesses during COVID ensured huge profits for large corporate donors (Amazon, Walmart, etc.) and the destruction of many small businesses for a “deadly” pandemic that had a 99.7% survival rate. Although there were many steppingstones toward the end of U.S. primacy, the most significant policies and practices from each administration are envisioned as a set of dominos:

- George H.W. Bush’s invasion of Panama (U.S. loss of status in Latin America); his increase in taxes was supposed to pay down the Federal debt – it didn’t.
- Clinton’s weak response to the bombing of two U.S. Embassies & the USS Cole (these were al-Qaeda trial runs that preceded the 9/11 attacks); his sexual impropriety & perjury permanently lowered the bar for personal conduct; mass murder of civilians in Waco, without prosecution of LEA was reprehensible.
- George W. Bush’s invasion of Iraq – the U.S. invasion lacked international legitimacy and destroyed a potential secular partnership with Iraq against Iran, and a two-front war is *never* advised;
- Barak Obama’s massive spending resulted in trillion-dollar deficits creating a Debt-to-GDP ratio that continues to exceed 100%; his impotent military response during the Benghazi attacks is legendary; and Obama’s support for the BLM narrative of systemic racism laid ground for subsequent race riots.
- Trump irresponsibly continued the trillion-dollar deficits without a presidential veto: he should have insisted on a balanced budget for all four years; his COVID responses led to higher deficits and debt.
- Biden’s excessive spending has led to inflation, his open borders added 5 million illegal immigrants or refugees to public assistance rolls, in addition to the 22 million illegal immigrants already in the USA (Fazel-Zarandi, et.al., 2018). The unprotected southwestern border has increased human trafficking as well as drug trafficking and over 100,000 deaths due to fentanyl (NIDA, 2023). Biden’s military failure in Afghanistan diminished U.S. standing worldwide. In addition, his authoritarian response to COVID-19 and \$2 trillion annual deficits will contribute to a collapse of the U.S. dollar.

The United States Congress, the Speaker of the House, and each president of the United States over the last 33 years have betrayed the American people. The economy, not the military, is the center of gravity for the United States’ primacy. Accompanying an increase of \$28 trillion of debt since 1989, the Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid programs have massive unfunded liabilities totaling over \$100 trillion. So, if this researcher had to choose just one event, that signaled the end of U.S. world supremacy, or “superpower” status, then it would be the moment in 2012, when the U.S. Federal Debt exceeded our Gross Domestic Product (GDP), largely due to Bush and Obama’s MMT-inspired implementation of unconstrained spending. If Bush and Obama laid the body of the American economy into a coffin, then it was certainly Biden’s spending that nailed it shut.

Without the power of a strong economy that is unhindered by massive debt, the United States is in the final days of American hegemony and the ‘superpower’ crown is being passed to China. If the U.S. economy is superman, then Federal debt is our kryptonite; and the political elites have irreparably harmed the American economy. A continued pursuit of unrealistic goals based upon MMT will have the same result as Venezuela: hyperinflation and massive unemployment, which will end the U.S. dollar as the de facto international currency. The Silicon Valley Bank is the first to fall – but there will be others. This paper serves as a precautionary warning to all American business owners and citizens.

Implications

Alexis de Tocqueville (1838) wrote, “America is great because she is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, she will cease to be great.” American political elites have ceased being good. As outlined in this research, the “Big Lie” has become a routine tactic among political elites and their cronies in the press, without repercussion. Collusion occurs between political party members across the executive, legislative and judicial branches, thereby destroying the separation of powers. Local and state politicians are routinely manipulated or bribed with Federal taxes, thereby destroying Federalism. Political elitists’ loyalty is no longer to the American people and their Oath of Office, but to themselves. Our elected officials have become examples of the seven deadly sins: Bush’s pride and ego led us into Iraq; Clinton’s lust for interns; Hillary’s envy of all who are in power; Pelosi’s greed (her huge increase in wealth since entering Congress); Obama’s wrath (weaponizing the government against his political opponents); Biden’s sloth (he can’t get anything worthwhile done), as well as Congress’ gluttonous consumption of our tax dollars. Although Trump was not considered one of the political elites, his pride adversely affected his governance.

Implications Related to Economics and Finance

The findings in this research have dire implications for American businesses and all citizens. The literal insolvency of Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid will require either a massive decrease in benefits or a massive increase in taxes (CBO, 2023). Neither have good outcomes for the recipient or the taxpayer. One can deduce that the pursuit of nationalized healthcare, with a massive increase in taxes, is intended to strengthen already bankrupt government programs. Businesses that do not have deep cash reserves and sufficient cash flow will go under during the upcoming great recession, potential hyperinflation brought about by Biden’s MMT-inspired spending, and subsequent impending collapse of the U.S. currency. Experts already predict that Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) are “coalescing against the dollar.” (Redman, 2023).

Implications Related to Information and Intelligence

The United States has been targeted by Chinese intelligence, but due to the significant financial interests by senior political leaders, the political elites have played into the hands of Chinese intelligence. The Chinese have defeated the United States economically (principally through U.S. outsourcing) and have won a military victory through their ‘intelligentized warfare’ that directly affects senior decision-makers. Financial ties and honey-pot spies have given the Chinese leverage over key politicians. As demonstrated by the fake Russia collusion hoax, many in the FBI have loyalty to a party rather than the American people; however, the first step is the investigation, and the second step must include prosecutions for violations of Federal statute, which is not happening. This leaves the U.S. population vulnerable to foreign exploitation.

Implications Related to Diplomacy and Defense

Unlike the United States, the Chinese have been shrewd enough not to get involved in numerous wars throughout the world. The Chinese have saved massive amounts of money, while the United States has spent blood and treasure on a continuous basis. Continuous warfare since 1989 in multiple theaters has also resulted in a loss of U.S. reputation throughout the world. The cowardly and incompetent withdrawal from Afghanistan has painted the U.S. as an unreliable partner in defense, a waning superpower.

Implications Related to Law Enforcement & the Rule of Law

Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA) no longer have the support of the political elites, despite their support from the American people. Local politicians sided with insurgents and criminals who vandalized homes and businesses; they also harmed or killed many citizens. Continued support for rioters and insurgents by the American left has already resulted in a 50% increase in homicides in just the past 2-years. Law-abiding citizens of any hue do not want to be victims, so they do not support the soft-on-crime narrative of CRT-progressive District Attorneys or theorists, who may never have resided in a ghetto. According to a Gallup poll in June and July of 2020, 81% of blacks and 88% of whites want the same level, or more

patrolling of their neighborhoods, not less (Baker, 2022; Saad, 2020). Politicians and activists who insisted on defunding the police, are now backtracking.

Another major issue that U.S. citizens need to address is the unlawful detention of American citizens, who on January 6, 2021, trespassed into the Capital. The vast majority of these political prisoners (98%) have only been charged with ‘trespassing’ not insurgency, yet these trespassers have been in confinement for over 24 months – this violates a Constitutional right to a speedy trial (Baker, 2023; Carlson, 2023; Hall, et.al., 2023). In contrast, charges against violent BLM and Antifa rioters, who created \$1 billion in property damage and multiple injuries and deaths, have consistently seen their charges dropped merely for community service (Viswanatha, et.al., 2021) – thereby prioritizing political affiliation over the rule of law, which will be a topic of another study.

Limitations

Due to a lack of access to classified information, the information and intelligence presented in this research were limited in scope. The author previously held a top-secret clearance, which would have enabled the inclusion of USG secret and top-secret information in various categories of the research, enhancing the rationale, discussion, analysis, and conclusions. For example, the Chinese government actively collects information about the United States and has compromised several American politicians, which could be explored in a separate report or article.

To broaden the scope of research, additional investigations are necessary at the Secret, Top Secret, and Law Enforcement Sensitive levels, where more comprehensive information could be obtained, untainted by political pressure.

Future Scope

The United States is currently facing an inflection point due to the Antifa/BLM riots and the subsequent shutdown of the economy in response to COVID-19, which many believe was unconstitutional. As a result, politicians at the local, state, and federal levels have exercised greater control over the economy and our personal lives, including mandated shutdowns, masks, isolation, and other measures. This has led to significant changes in the American economy, a massive increase in debt, and a decrease in individual freedoms. This overreach by politicians is seen by some as a turning point that could lead to dramatic changes with negative consequences. Further research is necessary on the potential impact of President Biden’s use of modern monetary theory (MMT) and its potential to cause double-digit inflation or even hyperinflation.

Hugo Chávez’s Bolivarian Republic started with lofty goals with a vision of a government that works better and costs less, to benefit the Venezuelan citizens; however, over-spending by the Chávez regime led to hyperinflation and economic collapse (Baker, 2021). The President and the U.S. Congress should take note of this considering their poor management policies and practices that include a massive national debt, which has risen from \$5.6 trillion in 2001 to \$31 trillion in just 20 years. This unconstrained and often unconstitutional spending is an unsustainable burden upon future generations (OMB, 2022). Like the República Bolivariana de Venezuela, overspending and debt will reduce the U.S. to a collapsed, failed state – the only question is when?

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